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FIFA
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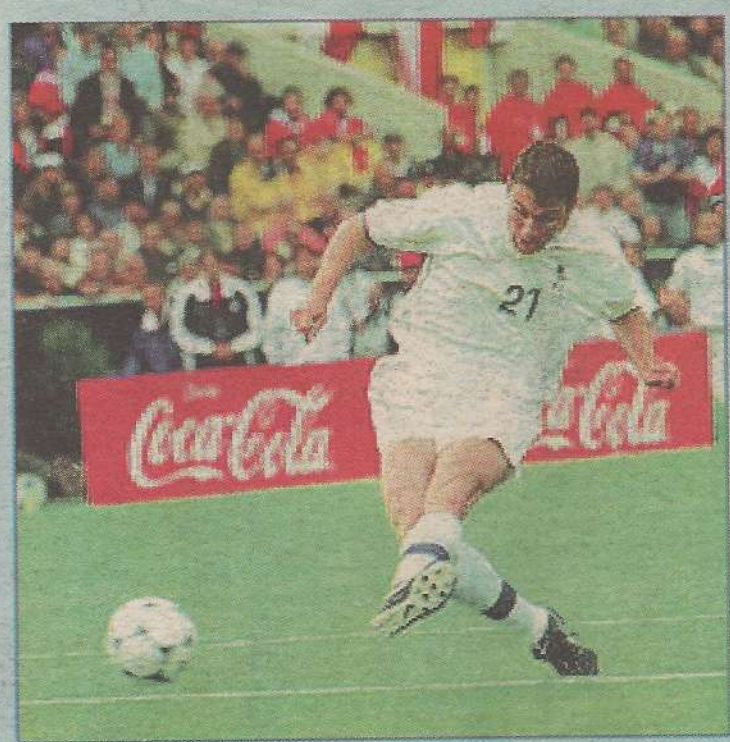
PROUDLY PRESENTS

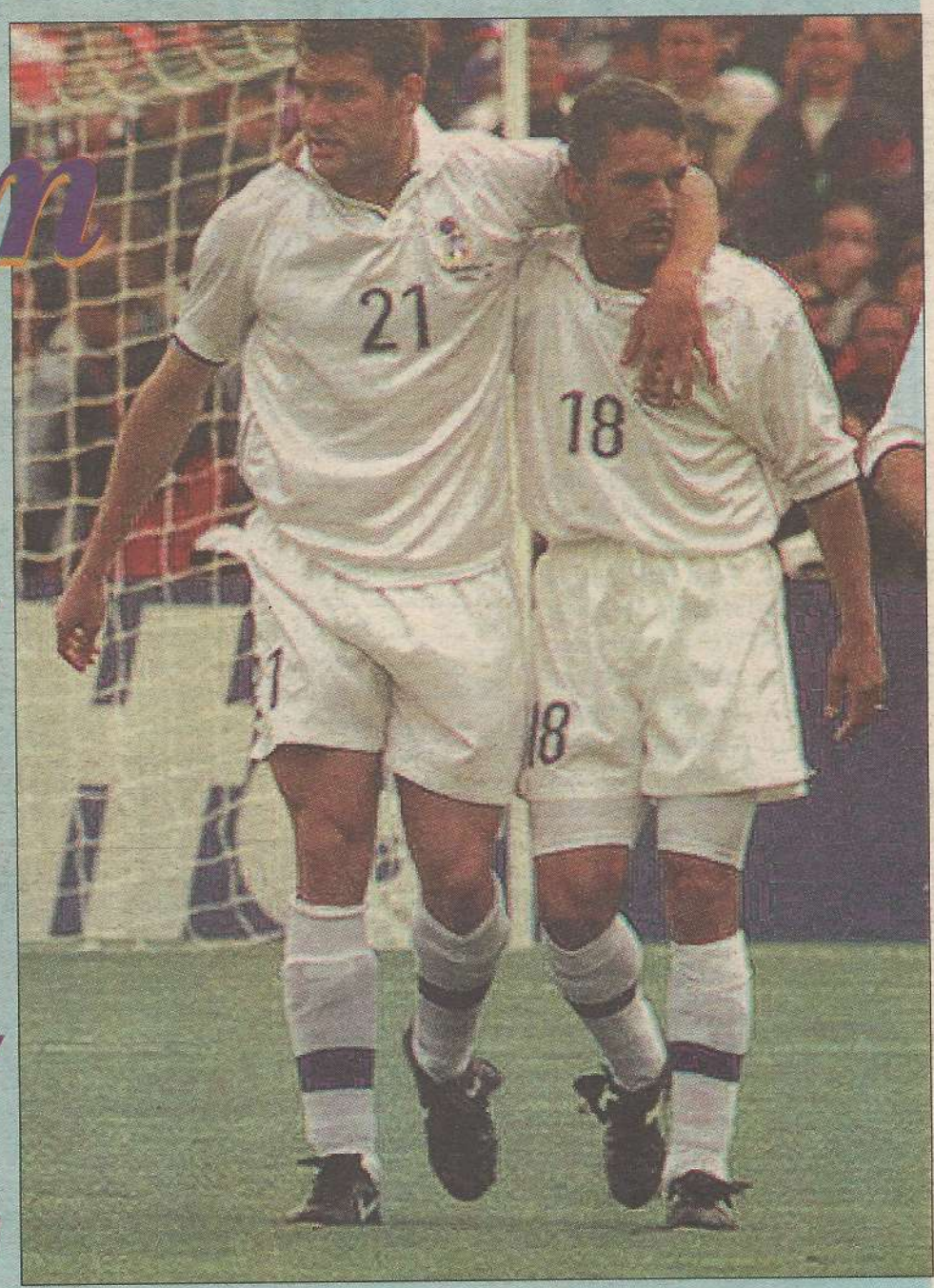
Christian Vieri

starring as

The Italian Stallion



The story of one boy's journey from the back streets of Sydney to claim soccer's holy grail



ALSO STARRING
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A bumper edition with all the latest World Cup action

A DEVIL OF AN ISSUE!

ENGLAND BACK IN BUSINESS P.26

INSIDE...

3 .....Les Murray in Paris
4 .....World Cup latest
5 .....Australian news
6 .....You have your say
7 .....Australian news
8 .....Australian news
9 .....Free Giveaways
10 .....NSW State Leagues
11 .....NSW State Leagues
12 .....Australian Features
13 .....Soccer Canberra
14 .....Soccer Victoria
15 .....Soccer Victoria
16 .....Images of France 98
17 .....Images of France 98
18 .....Women & WC Stories
19 .....France 98 matches
20 .....France 98 matches
21 .....France 98 matches
22 .....France 98 matches
23 .....France 98 matches
24 .....France 98 matches
25 .....France 98 matches
26 .....France 98 matches
27 .....France 98 matches
28 .....France 98 matches
29 .....France 98 matches
30 .....France 98 analysis
31 .....France 98 analysis
ABSW...
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RONALDO TOO HOT FOR CHILE P.28

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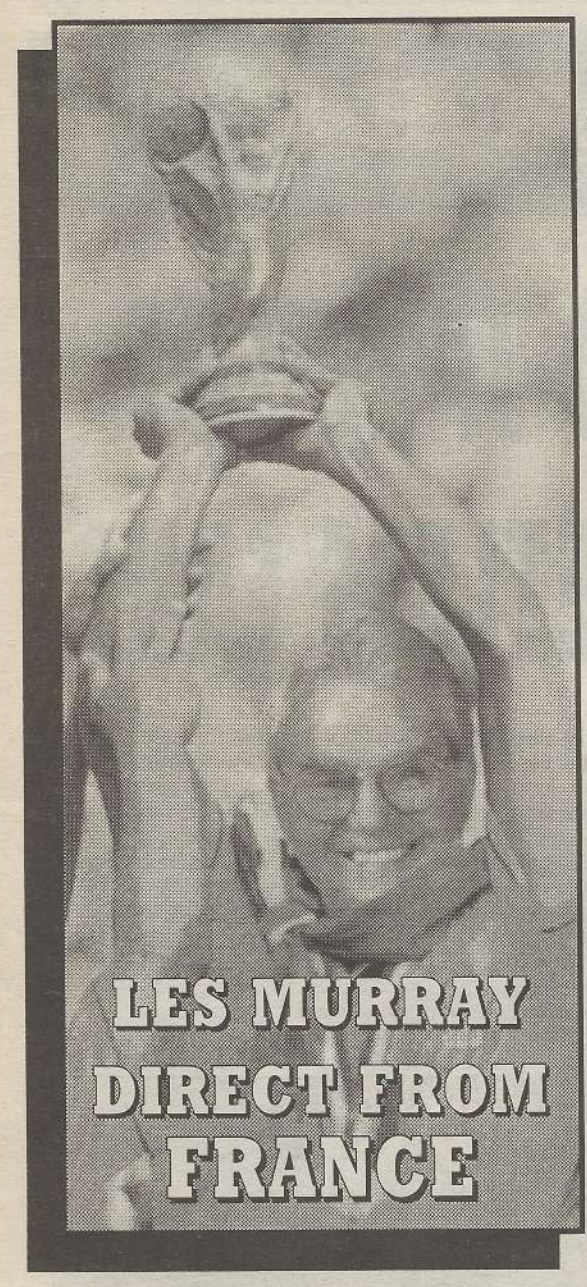

Here at the World Cup the big winners are not Brazil or Italy or FIFA or the organisers or the sponsors. No folks, the winners are the pundits, or the so-called media experts who make a career out of telling coaches how to suck eggs. And for a change they have been right.

Since the tournament's start, the media pundits have reacted violently against the insatiable conservatism that infects coaches or indeed every man who transforms from being player to coach and thereby undergoes an ideological metamorphosis. England boss Glenn Hoddle was the most prominent of those struck down by this debilitating disease.

Once an elegant, skilful, creative midfield craftsmen, Hoddle has hardly been practising as coach what his deft feet preached while he was a player. He's been the boring conservative coach to a tee, not being prepared Paul Gascoigne for the Cup and then leaving two of the few class acts England has, Beckham and Owen, on the bench.

Neither the pundits nor the public could understand how the powerful attacking qualities of Beckham could be deemed a luxury, or how a Michael Owen, with all his lethal, exciting resources, be neglected over the largely plodding Teddy Sheringham. The pundits of course like to play it safe and wait until the first match to see if they or the coach had been right.

In England's case it was the second match because England won the first game using Sheringham in attack and hard man Batty in midfield. But England's second match, using the same men, was lost to Romania. So the pundits pounced and howled for Owen and Beckham. So Hoddle, who claims he never reads newspapers, obliged for whatever reason. The rugged ball winner Batty was replaced by Beckham and the hapless Sheringham by Owen for the next game. Which, against Colombia, was duly won impressively by a transformed England.

There were many other cases. Italy began the World Cup, as one would expect with a super-conservative coach like Cesare Maldini, with that honest hard worker Di Livio on its right flank, ignoring the claims of the more creative, goalscoring Moriero. Not all worked well in the opening 2-2 draw with Chile so Moriero, more of the pundits' darling, was introduced against Cameroon, a game Italy won 3-0. The experts' had been proven expert again.

The list continued as more and more cautious coaches introduced more creative players favoured by the pundits and were rewarded with better team performances: Chile's Sierra for Estay, Austria's Herzog for Haas and Argentina's Gallardo in a reshuffle.

The debate continues over Brazil's brilliant Denilson and why he is not being used as a starter.

The media wants Denilson. The Brazilian fans the other night at the Parc des Princes were chanting his name as he sat on the bench. He did come on and gave Brazil a sharper edge, as he had done in previous games. The pundits have not been proven wrong even though coach Zagallo persists with starting games without Denilson.

Other coaches, of course, refuse to listen. Like Spain's pragmatic Javier Clemente who has never had time for the game's artists, always preferring fighters and battlers instead. That is why the more direct Pizzi or Alfonso were preferred in attack to the more precocious Morientes who partners the other striker, Raul, in the Real Madrid attack. The lesson of course is that Spain has gone home because Clemente refused to take good advice.

Of course you might think these are some arrogant words from a media man who loves being right. Not quite although I do admit to enjoying being right about one thing - that creative, carefree footballers, in the right quota, in fact bring more results than the work horses or, as Eric Cantona called them, the 'eater carriers'.

Beckham and Owen: 'Transformed England'.

CHRISTIAN VIERI IN AUSTRALIA?

By John Economos

Italian World Cup striker Christian Vieri, who over the past two weeks has become the glamour boy with Australia's sporting media, could be in Sydney by the end of July.

Italy's World Cup squad players have all be given 25 days off once their international commitments have been completed in France.

Vieri, who celebrates his 25th birthday on the very same date as the World Cup final, wants to come back to Sydney and spend a few days relaxing with his best friend from his teenage years, Attilio Labbozzetta, son of Club Marconi's president, Tony.

As a former Marconi junior, Vieri grew up with Labbozzetta and, as well as playing Soccer together, both immensely enjoyed cricket.

"I'm very proud of my mate," stated Attilio Labbozzetta to ABSW last night.

"Christian has been killing them with some pretty heroic stuff over in France. Believe me he has not surprised me at all. Everybody at Club Marconi and probably right across Australia just has to be proud of what this guy has been doing in the current World Cup. Christian is a real international sportsman. We love him," ended Labbozzetta.

Two years ago when the forever hungry Italian media first interviewed Vieri when glamour side Juventus paid $1 million to Atalanta to buy him, they asked him who was his sporting hero?

Anticipating a Franco Baresi, a Maradona or even a Roberto Baggio, the no-nonsense Vieri stumped the Italian media as he simply answered: "Allan Border".

Having followed Australian cricket most of his life, Vieri has always had huge feelings for Australia's former captain, Allan Border.

Vieri's statement on his sporting hero quickly made global news.

Last Tuesday morning Italy defeated the steely Austrians 2-1. As the courageous Vieri opened Italy's 'innings' in the 50th minute via a crashing header from an Alessandro Del Piero free kick, SBS television commentator, the articulate Martin Tyler, suggested to viewers: "Maybe now, Christian Vieri has become Allan Border's hero in sport."

Meanwhile back in Australia Allan Border, who this week was alerted about him being Christian's sporting hero, stated: "I've seen him scoring goals, now I'll have to watch him even more closely."

Spain's Atletico Madrid paid Juventus a mammoth transfer of $27 million to secure Vieri's services last year.

The Italian-born Vieri migrated to Sydney at the age of five with his parents, but 11 years later returned with them to Italy to pursue a fulltime professional career in Soccer.

What most Soccer fans do not know is the fact that Vieri hit another prestigious milestone in his Soccer career well before the World Cup Finals kicked off in France.

The burly striker scored Italy's 1,000th goal in international Soccer earlier this year in a World Cup qualifier against Maldova.

To top off a splendid season with his new club, Vieri ended up as Spain's leading goalscorer this season, with a massive 25 goals for Atletico Madrid.

Making this statistical achievement even more credible is the fact that Vieri had missed eight matches through injuries.

Last Sunday morning Vieri's goal for Italy against Austria, (the only nation to have defeated Brazil so far), brilliantly illustrated to the world just how much strength, courage and above all, fierce competitve determination this wonderful player possesses.

Coming to Australia?

FRANCE 98 LATEST

Compiled by ABSW

HAND OF GOD PART TWO?

Coach Glenn Hoddle should have a full-strength squad to select from when he bids to make amends for England's 1986 'Hand of God' 1986 defeat by Argentina in St Etienne tomorrow morning our time.

Hoddle told a news conference on on the weekend that all 22 of his players had trained and were fit to play, including midfielder Paul Ince and defender Gareth Southgate who had suffered ankle injuries.

"It is a good time for us, in terms of the tournament, to be 22-strong," he said. "Everyone trained today. Some rested a little because they felt fatigued and some had knocks and bruises, but that was all.

"As a team, as a squad, and for me as a coach, it is good. We're very happy and we are looking forward with relish to playing Argentina. We know we created a lot of chances against Colombia."

Hoddle avoided any use of the single word that was on everyone's lips around him revenge.

But, as one of the England players who saw Diego Maradona leap and punch the ball past goalkeeper Peter Shilton in the 51st minute of their 1986 World Cup quarter-final in Mexico, he recalled the incident with clarity and feeling.

"That game in '86 was a very tight game until the handball," he said. "It turned the game."

England and Argentina have met only once since that fateful meeting in 1986. It was a 2-2 draw at Wembley in 1991. Of all games so far in France, this is the one that is going to capture the attention, for its historical and footballing reasons.

See Richard Kreider's preview on this page.

Batistuta has England in his sights for tomorrow morning's game

ACID JAZZ FOR TICKETLESS FANS

No extra tickets will be allocated to England fans for the big second round match with Argentina, officials said on the weekend.

"There will be no more tickets available," said Henri Blanc, the site director at the Geoffroy-Guichard stadium. "All of the tickets have been sold through the system that was set up by the CFO (World Cup Organising Committee) in August1996."

Blanc said each country's football federation had already received their allocation. England were given 2,049.

Asked if he was worried that fans without tickets might cause trouble Blanc said, "Many people will come without tickets, many people have come without tickets for the matches which have already taken place.

"They're supporters, they've come to enjoy the football. This has always gone very well."

Supporters without tickets will not be able to watch the match on the big screen in the city centre. The authorities have decided not to show it as a precautionary measure. Instead, there will be an "acid jazz" concert.

WE CAN BEAT ANYONE, SAYS KLINSMANN

Jurgen Klinsmann believes that Germany's ruthless streak will carry them into the quarter-finals when they face Mexico in Montpellier. The German captain and former Tottenham striker said: "When it's all or nothing, that's when we're at our best. We thrive on pressure.

"If we lift our rhythm and start pressing I don't see any side capable of beating us. We know what we have to do."

Coach Berti Vogts admitted, however, that his side are struggling to compensate for the loss of injured sweeper Matthias Sammer.

Vogts said: "He is the only one who is capable of moving from defence into midfield and controlling the game. Neither Olaf Thon nor Lother Matthaus wants the role, but I'm not here to please them."

Mexico coach Manuel Lapuente said: "We have the players to unlock the German defence, but I have limitless respect for the opposition.

"I admire their force and strength. We'll play to our limit and they'll have to work very hard to beat us."

Meanwhile, FIFA may think France 98 has been a football feast, but Franz Beckenbauer and Diego Maradona disagree.

"Not one team, not one match has impressed me," said Beckenbauer, coach of Germany's 1990 World Cup-winning team.

"Diego told me too many players have square feet and I agree. The last good match I saw was the Champions League Final between Juventus and Real Madrid."

Klinsmann's team has not impressed the Kaiser.

CAN ENGLAND HANDLE ARGENTINA?

asks ABSW's Perth Correspondent Richard Kreider

It's been twelve long years since England's fateful quarter-final encounter with Argentina in the Mexico World Cup finals, one that will long be remembered for the two goals from the diminutive dynamo, Diego Maradona.

The first was dubbed the 'Hand of God' by the Argentine himself, after he slipped the ball past Peter Shilton with the palm of his right hand.

The midfielder's second however, scored four minutes later, was a solo goal of profound genius that perhaps was performed to secure forgiveness for his disreputable piece of deception.

In fact, I'm sure there is not one English supporter alive today who witnessed the incident (with the aid of a TV replay), has ever forgave Maradona for what appeared to be the major turning point in his country claiming a second world title.

Glenn Hoddle was an integral part of that 1986 squad, and will, no doubt, as a psychological tool, remind his charges of how his team were eliminated from Mexico, prior tomorrow morning's clash in Saint-Etienne.

The 2-0 victory over Columbia has already kick-started street parties and the traditional dancing in the fountain at Trafalgar Square.

In fact it is likely Hoddle may start Beckham and the other goalscorer Anderton, with Batty relegated to the bench. The only other change may be Southgate for Neville?

The task of overcoming the South Americans however, will not be an easy one. They have yet to concede a goal in the tournament.

There was still a suspicion of fragility in the English back-line against Colombia, which will be ample for the likes of Gabriel Batistuta, Ariel Ortega and Marcelo Gallardo to exploit and conquer.

Arsenal goalkeeper David Seaman has not had much to do so far, but I expect this will change quite dramatically tomorrow morning, considering the calibre of firepower that will be bearing down on him.

Even the midfield might of Almeyda, Zanetti and Veron will deserve the utmost respect. Nevertheless, the ingredients are there for what should be an electrifying encounter.

Maybe if God is as impartial as England hopes he is, then the football crazed land of Hope and Glory will be expecting God's other hand to guide them to victory this time around.

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Australian News

DRUGS ROCK AUSSIE SOCCER

By Phil Murphy

Former Wollongong Wolves defender Jason Connolly has been banned for two years after failing a drug test.

Connolly tested positive to Extasy after the Wolves game against Canberra Cosmos at Bruce Stadium in March.

He was subsequently axed from the Wollongong squad before the opening play-off game against Adelaide City.

Coach Nick Theodorakopoulos told Connolly he wouldn't be playing against the Zebras in either of the games.

He told the player it was because he had an attitude problem.

Connolly immediately shook hands with all the Wollongong players on the training ground and quit the club.

He had since been transferred to State Super League club Macarthur and has played four games with them.

Macarthur coach Casey de Bruin was stunned when informed by Soccer NSW Connolly had been banned.

De Bruin told ABSW he was angry that Macarthur had lost a valuable player because of something that happened when he was at another club.

De Bruin said Macarthur would consider legal action to recoup the transfers fee they paid for Connolly.

Connolly admitted taking an Extasy tablet at a party a week before the Canberra game.

He said he didn't think it would show up in a drug test.

"I showed bad judgment after having a few drinks," he said.

"Extasy certainly isn't a performance enhancing drug and I didn't expect to be banned for two years.

"It is ironic that a rugby league player (Robbie O'Davis) admits taking what is known to be a performance enhancing drug and is cleared.

"I take something which won't help my performance and I am outed for two years."

Connolly had been advised by his solicitor not to appeal against the ban.

He said he would start a tech course and definitely play again when the ban was finished.

HARRY MANIA HITS THE CAPITAL

By Graham Cooke

Socceroo Harry Kewell appears to have supplanted his rivals as Australia's favourite soccer son during the time he is spending back in the country on leave from English club Leeds United.

Appearances at training camps, club nights, television programs and sportspeople's functions are endearing the nation to the fresh-faced youngster who has only just left his teenage years behind.

Recently it was Canberra's turn to get a dose of the Kewell magic, which is really nothing more than that of a friendly, unaffected young man who still gets a kick out of being a celebrity.

His appearance at the latest Canberra Cosmos winter luncheon produced the biggest roll-up so far in the popular series. At this rate attendances will approach some of the smaller crowds the club drew in the past season.

An otherwise innocuous question-and-answer session touched on the subject which has soured Kewell's relations with Soccer Australia: His absence from the Olyroos team for the series with Brazil earlier this year, which led to Australia evoking an international rule suspending him from playing for Leeds.

That led to angry scenes at the Premier League club, and suggestions Kewell would sever his international links with the country of his birth.

However, he made it clear at the Canberra lunch that words spoken in haste should not be taken as gospel.

"I was disappointed with Soccer Australia," he said. "I was injured and I had the medical evidence to support it, but they chose not to believe me.

"We are still in talks with them, but I want to make it clear that I will be there at the 2000 Olympics in my home town, and I will be there for the next World Cup."

The sooner any residual bad feeling is swept away the better. Kewell is potentially Australia's best soccer asset since Ned Zelic scored THAT goal against the Dutch in the 1992 Olympic qualifiers. Because he is on the English stage, which gets enormous publicity in Australia, his continuing value will exceed Zelic's.

Put plainly, Australia is wild about Harry and the code's governing body must do all it can to capitalise on that enthusiasm during an otherwise dead period for us internationally.

'Harry Kewell Mania' sweeping Australia.

SWANCOTT'S LATIN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER

By Aidan Ormond

"The highlight of my career so far, just an unbelievable experience," were the words of Young Socceroo and Newcastle keeper Brad Swancott.

The Young Socceroos have just returned from a South American tour and Swancott, jet-lagged and with a head cold, took time out to talk about the tour.

"A big eye-opener given that most of us had never been over there before. I can tell you that I have learned plenty and once I start playing here again I can put what I have learnt into action," said the young keeper.

"They understand the game more, maybe because it is their main sport. They are more streetwise, but really there was not a big difference between there and playing Ericsson Cup.

"The crowds were not huge, but we were more concerned with winning games than the crowds."

So what were the highlights?

"Well we thumped Independiente 6-0. Then we played the famous Argentine side Boca Juniors. The first half we really stuck it to them. We matched them in every department but I think in the second half we became a bit overawed, and even though we lost, they had players from their first team in their side, so it was not a bad effort.

"Mind you, in some of the games it got a bit rough. In one of the internationals with Uruguay, Carlton's Simon Colosimo was injured in the leg — it was unbelievable, tackles flying around like anything, and Michael Ferrante was sent-off in that game.

"We played Chile and Uruguay twice in internationals. We lost 3-1 to Chile and 2-2, and beat Uruguay 1-0 and lost 2-1.

"With the keeping situation, we were played game for game, which was pretty fair, and as for my own form I was pretty happy with it.

"From a playing point of view it really was a team effort, and I am sure we all learnt plenty."

So how was all the travel?

"The flights were not that bad but the journey home was 22 hours which was a killer! Everything, even the hotels, was nice so we have nothing to complain about."

OK Brad, a bunch of U/20 Aussie sportsmen overseas in a Soccer-mad continent, you must have met some of the locals??

Nick Carle's language skills came in useful in South America says Brad!

"I've got to watch what I say (laughs loudly). Yes the girls were very attractive but because most of us did not speak Spanish it was a little difficult to communicate, so we got Nick Carle (of South American origin) to do the groundwork for us! But really there was not much time — we had only two days off and that was spent sightseeing. The rest of the time we were playing or training.

"Nothing juicy for the moment, maybe in the future!"

Fair enough, anyway while you were away the coaching situation at your club has been resolved. How are you feeling about the new season under the coach?

"I met Lee Sterrey for the first time yesterday. He is looking to bring a few players which should be good and he seems to have some good ideas, so let's hope it all works out for us."

Thanks Brad and best of luck.

YOUNG SOCCEROOS THRASH INDEPENDIENTE

On their just completed South American tour the Young Socceroos, under the guidance of Les Scheinflug, racked up some very encouraging results.

Included in this was a 4-1 victory over Union Espanol and a 6-0 thumping of Independiente plus a victory, 1-0, over Uruguay (see story left).

The results on tour (in no particular order):

Young Socceroos	6	Independiente	0
Young Socceroos	1	Univ Catolica	1
Young Socceroos	1	Uruguay	2
Young Socceroos	1	Uruguay	0
Young Socceroos	2	Chile	2
Young Socceroos	1	Chile	3
Young Socceroos	0	Boca Juniors	2
Young Socceroos	2	Univ de Chile	3
Young Socceroos	4	Union Espanol	1

Mile Sterjovski: Young Socceroo striker.

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I've been reading and hearing how Italy topped their group and that they have avoided Brazil in the second round. Has anyone stopped and considered that the once mighty Brazil were lucky to top their group and now have avoided a show down with the Mighty Italians, who I might add, have a great record against Brazil at World Cup level.

As Brazil is still a talented side they can never match the Brazilian side of 1982 and 1970. Forza Italia.

Peter Cavarretts
Liverpool, NSW.

Winners for this week's competitions:

ALLEZ! OLA! OLE! Competition:
Joy Sarmonikas
Greenacre, NSW 2190.

MONOPOLY CD ROM GAME Competition:
Graham Roseworn
Blacktown, NSW 2148.

EA SPORTS WORLD CUP 98 Competition:
Ben De Beus
Riverstone, NSW 2765.

You never know who will read your letter...

Brazilian Captain Dunga reading ABSW

Diary of a Soccer Widow

From the secret diaries of Andrew Akratos

After five World Cups (including three with a different girlfriend) I finally met a girl that liked the round ball game as much as I. No more nag, nag, nag during the game. No more "you don't talk to me anymore", no more "but I want to go shopping" and definitely no more "let's discuss the relationship". Not this boy. For the first time I had me a woman that liked to watch the game (quietly), knew the rules, and, better yet, knew the players and the teams.

So in perfect bliss we waited for France 98 to come round. Carefully, each night I ticked off the days till June 10 and made sure I got plenty of sleep during the preceeding weeks.

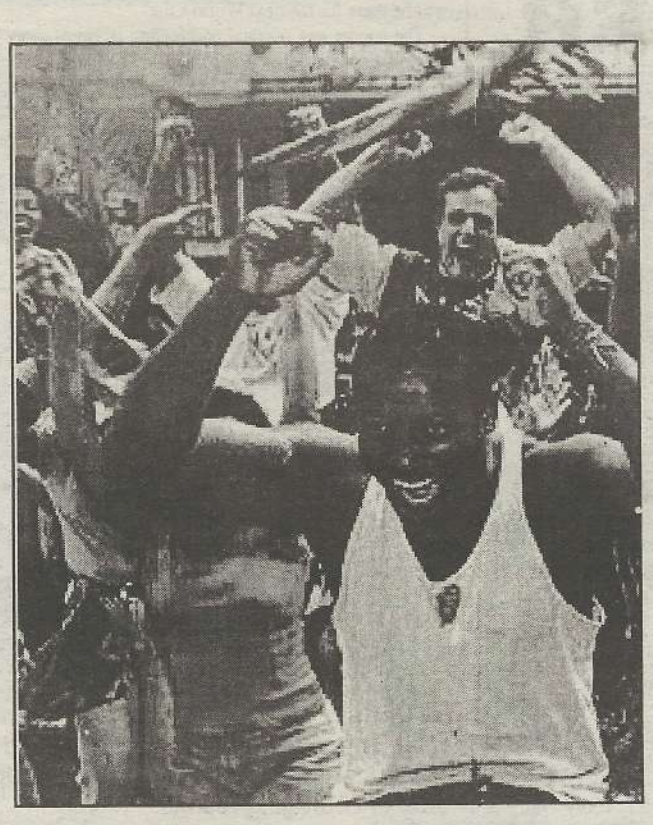
More importantly, the ball and chain (said in the least sexist manner possible) got to do her shopping thing and laid in a good stock of beer, chips, chocolates, soft drinks and just to be on the safe side, more beer, chips etc.

Kick off finally came and the boys came round night after night to pray to the tele-optical god. A couple of them were feral, a couple of more were barely housebroken but on the whole, a manly set of manly men (talk about alliteration running riot). And the missus did me right proud.

Always hovering in the background (quietly) ready to get us a few beers, cook a few steaks, pick up the crisps from the carpet and generally fetch and carry to all and sundry draped over the armchairs, floors and sofas of the house.

The best part of any sporting event enjoyed in the comfort of one's living room are the sporting activities that occupy the half time break. Olympic events such as belching, arm wrestling, poker and beer guzzling became as regular and as necessary as Fantasy Football was before the game. And the missus all along sat quietly in the background munching on a chip, drinking a coffee and fetching and carrying at my beck and call.

Then one sad, sad night (England v Romania to be exact) I had to work late and got the missus to host the party till I got home. Rushing home I was greeted at the door by a loud belch and much cheering. Even I was impressed as the producer of the belch was my beloved. Unfortunately for I, we had a bumper crowd that night and space was at a premium, and, as last comer was forced to occupy the no-mans'-land between the back of the room and kitchen while my baby sat in the front and cheered merrily at Romania's heroics.



I on the other hand, saw little of the game but did get quite a good glimpse of the back of everyone's head and developed an intimate relationship with the fridge. Happily for I this unhappy state of affairs was only for one night, I thought.

Alas, the best laid plans of mice and men. Night after night I found myself relegated to the back as I always was the last one home. I was patient but after a couple of days I had enough.

Bad enough I couldn't see the game but she beat all and sundry at belching, swearing and arm wrestling and was proving a mite too popular with the lads (at my expense I might add). I tried to get the missus to go back to her seat but she wouldn't.

She liked the view from the couch and as attractive as the view was from the kitchen, she couldn't, in good conscience, deprive me of the opportunity to watch the game from the most excellent position that she had herself so recently occupied. I screamed and sulked but she wouldn't budge.

A scuffle broke out amongst the boys over it and at last it was put to the vote. Bastards! They voted for her and once again I found myself running to the 7-11 for more crisps and sweets.

As I drive home from the store with numerous plastic bags in the back of the car I can't help but wonder how blind and ungrateful I had been when none of my previous girlfriends had liked the game.

As beautiful as the round ball game is, much can be said of shopping and discussing the relationship. Just think of the alternatives....brrrrr!

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Australian News

BROOKS JUMPS ON BOARD SOUTH COAST EXPRESS

By Mark Stavroulakis

Wollongong City had one of its finest years last season. They ended up in the Finals — comprehensively beating Adelaide City over two games and pushing Marconi all the way. Wolves also won the pre-season Waratah Cup, scored a bagful of goals, but, more importantly, shrugged off the tag of dour regional side and easybeats.

One new player set to liven up the place even more is a former Adelaide City striker, none other than the highly-respected striker Michael Brooks.

He made a big name at Adelaide City, where he played along side a number of quality and experienced players.

However, the question on everybody's lips was, why did he leave Adelaide City?

"It was not an easy choice for me, leaving such a great team where I made many new friends, and a city which I absolutely loved.

"But it was down to two main issues. One, the plans at Adelaide City were not to my liking. With the introduction of Zoran Matic, who is one of the best coaches going around, his style of play did not suit me, as he has more of a defensive approach to the game.

"That sort of football does not suit me, and I would not think that this would improve my game.

"I had other offers from other Ericsson Cup Clubs, but Wollongong was the one as they play attractive soccer and I feel as though my game will improve.

"Also with the players the Wolves have bought, and the others who are already at the club, I know I can score goals at Wollongong."

The South Coast club have also signed in recent times gun Super League striker Saso Petrovski and former Marconi and Adelaide City keeper, Les Pogliacomi.

The second reason for Michael's departure was Wollongong's much-lauded coach.

"Nick Thedorakopoulos impresses me. He is a very good coach and knows what he is talking about.

"He is also one of the most respected coaches in the Ericsson Cup."

Brothers in arms ... new Wolves stars Les Pogliacomi and Mike Brooks.

The 27-year-old is now currently in the process of searching for a house, as he has signed for the Wolves on a two-year contract.

The elegant striker will be well looked after at Wollongong. The town itself is a joy to live in and the natural beauty of the area attracts many tourist. And what about those fans!

With the players Wollongong have already bought, plus two big name players in the offing, Wollongong have a chance to crack their first championship.

We wish Michael all the best this season, and we know come business end of the season his name will be in the top scorers list.

We also know that by the end of this season the terraces at Brandon Park — terraces that had one of the highest average crowds in the league — will be chanting Michael Brooks' name. After all, if it is goals you want, Wollongong is the place.

ABSW ASSESSMENT ... Very shrewd buy. Capable of 12-15 goals for next season. Wollongong's gain, Zebras' loss.

HARRY BEATS AFL LEGEND!

By Aidan Ormond

The amazing rise in popularity of Harry Kewell continues. Appearances just about everywhere (see Canberra story page 5) have endeared him to the nation like no other. Recently he teamed up with AFL legend Dougie Hawkins for a game of Soccer — electronic Soccer that is. The EA Sports World Cup 98, which you can win (see page nine).

Harry played and won, then played the real thing and scored against Dougie (see below).

Harry Mania has been sweeping the country since he returned from England on holiday from the English Premier League where he is one of the most highly-respected young players in the game.

Although Harry has been on holiday, he has been kept busy with a number of media commitments on radio, television and with the print media.

He is a genuine Australian Soccer Star, able to entice fans to the game with an unassuming charm. Every cloud has a silver lining, so, even though we are not in France, one positive thing to emerge has been 'Harry Mania', and the lifting of the game's profile as a result.

Harry, you're a legend!!

Harry Kewell and Dougie Hawkins playing World Cup 98. Harry won .. of course!

☆ BILL TURNER CUP CLASSIC ☆

Villanova Victorious Thanks to Schiavon

In a nerve-wrecking second round Bill Turner Cup encounter, Villanova College finally overcame Carmel College 5-4 on penalties in front of a large crowd.

While Villanova scraped into the second round with a 1-0 extra time win over Cleveland State High School, Carmel College cruised to a 7-0 thrashing of opponents Ormiston and deserved to be considered favourites to progress to the third round.

This certainly looked the case when, after just minutes of the game, neat passing by Carmel opened up the centre of Villanova's defence for Scott Giesemann to give them a 1-0 lead.

Perhaps this was the spur Villa needed and they soon equalised when good work down the right saw a low cross across the face of the goal tapped in at the far post by striker Tim Wildin.

Excellent scrambling defence from both teams, especially in midfield, made for a close game from then on. Tight marking and tackling from Villa centre back Brendan Gribbin and astute reading of the play from sweeper Michael Gibb saw Carmel generating few chances.

Villanova did create several opportunities to win the game in the second half, but were denied a decisive strike twice by quality saves from Carmel's keeper and once by the frame of the goal.

Brisbane's early winter evenings and a late kick-off do not allow for the employment of extra time so it was agreed before the match to move straight to a penalty shootout.

Both teams converted their first four spot kicks, however, Villanova's fifth kick proved the difference between the teams when keeper Anthony Schiavon saved Carmel's last attempt.

The players from both teams should be congratulated on a skilful and hard fought encounter.

The Bill Turner Cup is Australia's biggest School Soccer Cup and regularly produces great goals, games and excitement.

Perhaps the next Harry Kewell is playing right now in the Cup?

Easy as you like ... Soccer Superstar Harry Kewell slots home past AFL legend Dougie Hawkins.

Australia Update

Soccer Queensland

By Glenn Davis

Ipswich Knights unleashed their full fury in the XXXX League with a comprehensive 3-0 win over premiership pretenders Brisbane Lions at Richlands Stadium on Saturday night.

The result sees Brisbane Lions slip from third to fifth place, one point behind three clubs: Taringa Rovers, Rochedale and Ipswich, who are locked together on 31 points.

Brisbane City remain hot favourites for the premiership 12 points ahead despite being held to a 1-1 draw with Wynnum.

Lions' performance would not have endeared Olyroo coach Raul Blanco, a surprise visitor to watch youngsters Kasey Wehrman (Ipswich) and Greg Di-Losa (Lions), to the true standard of the XXXX league competition.

With massive renovations being undertaken at the luxurious Lions' complex, playing conditions have deteriorated markedly with an overload from the club's large numbers of senior and junior players training on the ground.

Ipswich's performance was packed with class as they outplayed Lions' in every facet.

The opening goal came midway through the first half when midfielder Craig Collins, who caused havoc down both flanks, slotted home a scrambly goal from close range after an initial shot from Kevin Meacock was parried down by Lions keeper Jason Lucas.

Their second came nine minutes from the break when Wehrman fired in a cross to Meacock who was brought down in the box by Lions' defender Darren Sime.

Damien Conquest made no mistake cooly slotting past Lucas.

Lions' had a rare glimpse of pegging back the Knights' lead in the 70th minute when Di Losa headed across the goalface only to see striker Warren Allen blast his left foot shot wide of the upright.

Former State striker Peter Vogler went close to extending the visitors lead five minutes from time when his goalbound shot was cleared off the line by Sime.

Vogler had only one minute to wait to seek revenge when he struck a powerful header from a corner giving Lucas no chance of stopping.

Ipswich coach Mike Mulvey has a team with all the ingredients of cementing a semi-final berth although he will lose Wehrman back to the Brisbane Strikers at the end of July.

"We came her to win and we did," Mulvey said.

"We've got a good squad and they're all playing for each other. They're now believing in themselves."

In other matches, Taringa Rovers lost 1-0 to Rochedale Rovers, Bundaberg thrashed Beenleigh 5-nil while Gold Coast came from two goals down at half-time to snatch a 2-all draw with Nerang.

XXXX LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brisbane City	18	13	4	1	45	13	43
Rochedale Rov	17	10	1	6	29	21	31
Taringa Rovers	18	9	4	5	26	18	31
IPSW Knights	17	10	1	6	29	27	31
Brisbane Lions	18	9	3	6	31	27	30
Mt Gravatt	18	5	6	7	31	29	21
Wynnum	17	5	4	8	22	28	19
Gold Coast	18	4	6	8	21	27	18
B'berg Waves	17	5	1	11	22	35	16
Beenleigh	18	3	0	15	21	52	9

ROUND 18

B'berg Waves	5	Beenleigh	0
Gold Coast	2	Mt Gravatt	2
Brisbane Lions	0	IPSW Knights	3
Wynnum	1	Brisbane City	1
Rochedale Rov	1	Taringa Rovers	0

Soccer Illawarra

ROUND 12 PREMIER LEAGUE

Consiton Lions	1	Bulli	1
Dapto	1	Fernhill	2
Port Kembla	1	Helensburgh	0
Kemblawarra	2	Northern Utd	2
Lysaghts	2	White Eagles	5
Cringila Lions	3	Wollongong Olympic	1

Soccer NNSW

Toronto	2	Belmont Swansea	1
Broadmeadow	1	Hamilton	0
Wallsend	1	Highfields	1
Edgeworth	5	Weathertex	2
Cessnock	1	Easts Maitland	0
Weston	1	Adamstown	0

Soccer West Coast

Bayswater City Panthers	1	Floreat Athena	1
Fremantle City	3	Kingsway Olympic	2
Cockburn City	2	Inglewood Falcons	1
Diantella White Eagles	1	Sorrento	3
Western Knights	4	Stirling Macedonia	1

Soccer South Australia

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Campbelltown City	11	8	1	2	22	9	25
West Torrens Birkalla	11	8	1	2	26	18	25
Croydon	11	6	2	3	24	18	20
Cumberland United	11	6	2	3	14	15	20
Adelaide Blue Eagles	11	5	1	5	14	13	16
Elizabeth City	11	3	4	4	15	14	13
Olympians	11	4	0	7	12	24	12
White City Warriors	11	2	4	5	10	13	10
Port Adelaide Lion	11	2	3	6	11	16	9
Raiders	11	1	2	8	12	20	5

ROUND 11

Pt Adelaide Lion	2	Olympians	3
Raiders	0	Campbelltown City	2
West Torrens Birkalla	0	Cumberland United	2
Adelaide Blue Eagles	1	Croydon	3
White City Warriors	2	Elizabeth City	2

Premier League Round 12

with Rob & Frank from Radio 5TRI in Adelaide

At the Pirate Park home team Port Lion Pirates will face the determined White City Warriors, both teams have had a very inconsistent season and the team that can take the points may still be a chance for the finals.

Thebarton Oval sees the Olympian Flames up against the Adelaide Raiders with caretaker player coach Mark Brazzale hoping to gain maxium points to try and lift his squad off the bottom of the table,

Croydon Kings will have their hands full at the Polonia Reserve against the much improved Elizabeth City Rams.

The Rams will be out to prove they have the talent to match the Kings with Dave Reynolds, Steve Ingham and Nathan Day in great form. Coaches Harry Bell and Jimmy Mitchell will rely on these players.

At the Bailey Reserve Cumberland Foxes will play the unpredictable Blue Eagles, the Blues on their day can be unstoppable, with player coach Zoran Karadzic a key.

Radio's 5RTI 92.7 FM Match of The Day will be at the Newton Sportsfield in what could be a preview of this year's grand final between the top two teams, in Campbelltown Red Devils and West Torrens Birkalla.

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Graham Arnold
(Former Socceroo) NSFC Head Coach

Ian Gray
(Former Socceroo)
NSFC Assistant Head Coach

JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 1.00pm - July 6 to July 10, 1998

BLACKTOWN – Evans High School, Walters Road, Blacktown
CARINGBAH – Endeavour High School, The Boulevard, Caringbah
CASTLE HILL – Castle Hill High School, Castle Street, Castle Hill
EASTWOOD – Epping Boys High School, Vimiera Road, Eastwood
EMU PLAINS – Nepean High School, Great Western H'way, Emu Plains
FRENCHS FOREST – The Forest High School, Frenchs Forest Road, Frenchs Forest
HUNTERS HILL – Hunters Hill High School, Reiby Street, Hunters Hill
ILLAWONG – Menai High School, Gerald Road, Illawong
MONA VALE – Kitchener Park, Pittwater Road, Mona Vale
ROCKDALE – St George Soccer Stadium, Bestic Street, Rockdale

DATE: Monday July 6 to Friday July 10
TIMES: 9.00 am to 1.00 pm
AGES: For boys and girls aged 6 to 15 years
FEE: $125.00 (check Group & Family discounts)
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3 or more children $105 (ea)

[Note: Club group bookings may be made by telephone, facsimile or mail. The discount applied depends on the final number of Application Forms received from the group.]

Special guests at the camp will include:
Graham Arnold (NSFC Head Coach)
Ian Gray (NSFC Assistant Head Coach)
Gabriel Mendez (Socceroo)
Ian Crook (Former English International and Tottenham Hotspurs player)
Clayton Zane (Olyroo)
Eddy Bosnar (Aust. Youth International)
Michael Cunico (Aust. Joeys International)
Kresimir Marusic (1997 Ericsson Cup Player of the Year)
Tony Perinich and John Perosh

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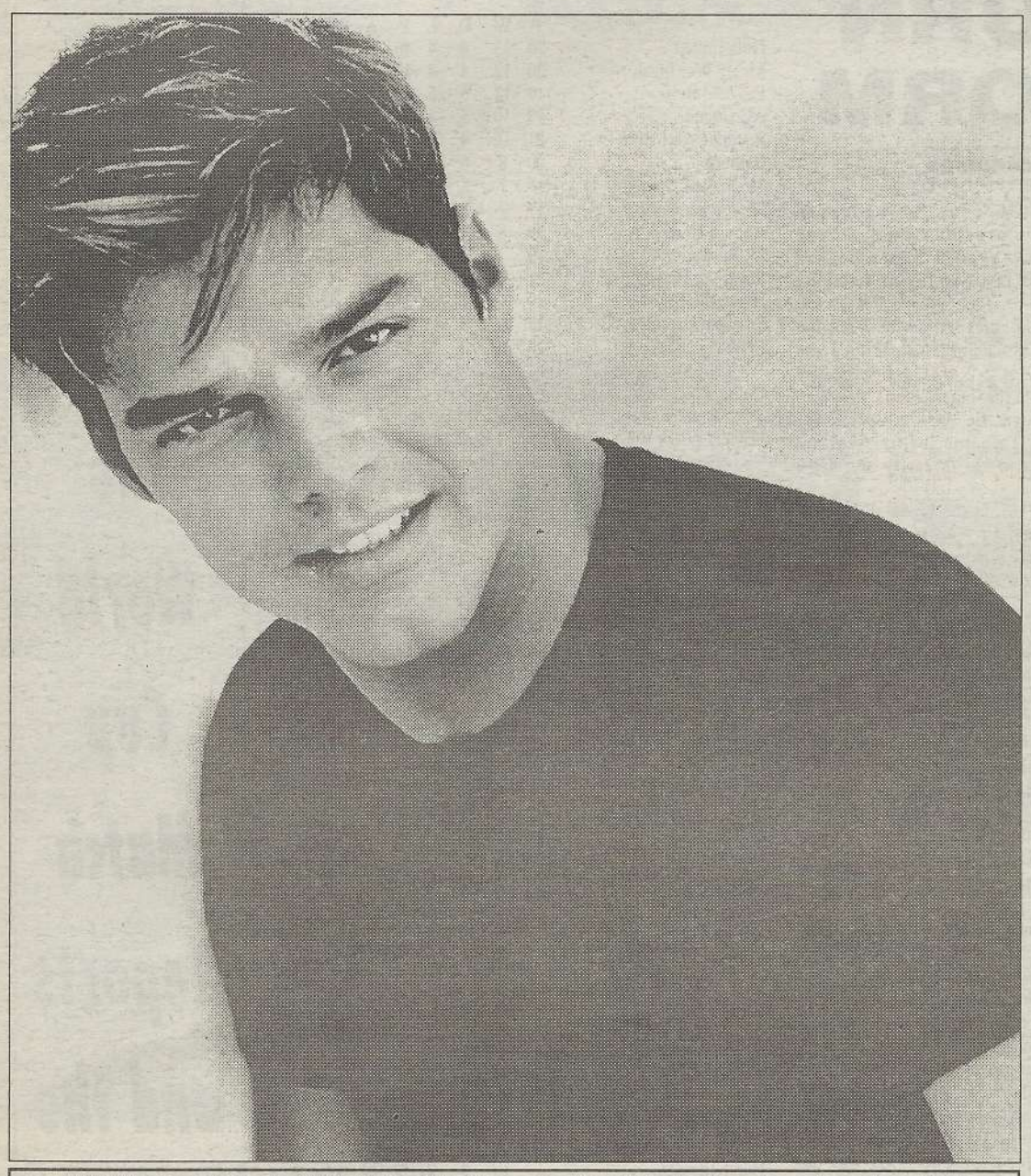
MUSIC OF THE WORLD CUP 1998!



Ricky Martin performs the 'Official Song' for the 98 World Cup soundtrack. The Month of June kicks off with the release of the official album of the World Cup 1998 – Allez! Ola! Ole!

The 20 Track Allez! Ola! Ole! is the only album officially endorsed by the world soccer governing body FIFA and features songs recorded from acts representing many of the qualifying World Cup countries.

Highlights include acts like Youssou N'Dour, Jean Michel Jarre, Apollo Four Forty, Gipsy Kings, Chumbawamba and Jam Spoon.

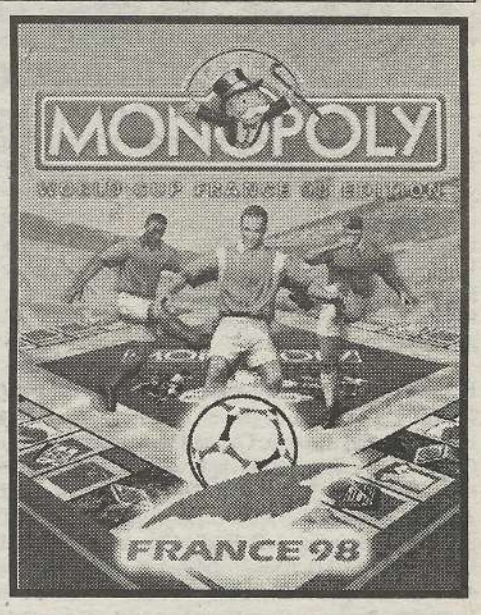
Included in the line up of artists, is the Latin singing sensation Ricky Martin, who performs the official song of the tournament – La Copa De La Vida" (The Cup of Life).

Allez! Ola! Ole! is due for release in just two days.

This is a great album, and perfect to get you in the mood for the biggest event in the world.

We would like to thank our friends at Colombia Records for the CDs and videos to be given away.

See below for how you can get your hands on this album and some great prizes from EA Sports and the World Cup CD ROM Monopoly...



COMPETITION DETAILS

We have three competitions ... send in one envelope per competition and mark each one clearly. These are very popular competitions so get your envelopes in early!

1: **EA Sports World Cup 98 Competition.** Send in on the back of an envelope your name address and phone number with the answer to this question: Name one team in France 98. One winner will receive EA Sports World Cup 98 game.

2: **Allez! Ola! Ole! Competition.** Send in on the back of an envelope your name address and phone number with the answer to this question: Which country does Ronaldo play for? One winner will receive the album and accompanying video.

3: **Monoploy CD Rom Game Competition:** Send in on the back of an envelope your name address and phone number with the answer to this question: Which country hosted the World Cup in 1994? Two winners will receive a copy of each book.

We will draw the winners next Monday
Go to page 6 for details of last week's winners.

ORDER YOUR COPY OF ABSW: RONALDO'S REACTION WHEN TOLD IT WAS SOLD-OUT!!

NSW STATE LEAGUES

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION
SUPER LEAGUE — ROUND 17

	1ST	U/21	U/18
Parramatta Eagles s Bankstown City Lions	2-0	2-0	0-0
St George Saints v Central Coast	1-3	1-1	1-2
Leichhardt Tigers v Macarthur Rams	2-2	1-1	3-2
Eastern Suburbs v Blacktown City	2-3	0-3	0-2
Bonnyrigg WE v Canterbury Berries	4-0	1-0	2-1
Ryde City Gunners v Sutherland Sharks	2-0	1-2	2-2
Parramatta Eagles v Central Coast	1-0		
Parramatta Eagles v Ryde City			0-0

First Grade: Parramatta Eagles 1 (R Younis 73m) bt Central Coast 0, Parramatta Eagles 2 (S. Karavatakis 66/88m) bt Bankstown City Lions 0, Central Coast 3 (A. Clarke 26m, D. Colsley 46m, P. Preston 90m) bt St George Saints 1 (M. Pillemer 82m), Leichhardt Tigers 2 (E. Hristodoulou 43m, D. Testore 75m) drew Macarthur Rams 2 (E. William 42m, L. Tomich 88m), Blacktown City 3 (P. Bradley 9m, 44m Pen, 73m Pen) bt Eastern Suburbs 2 (J. Bennett 50/84m), Bonnyrigg White Eagles 4 (S. Nielson 12m, P. Richardson 35/38m, J. Mancenio 50m) bt Canterbury Berries 0, Ryde City Gunners 2 (own goal 53m, A. Cetinay 80m) bt Sutherland Sharks 0.

SUPER LEAGUE - FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Macarthur Rams	17	11	3	3	33	23	10	36
Bonnyrigg We	17	10	3	4	36	21	15	33
Blacktown City	17	10	3	4	34	20	14	33
Parramatta Eagles	16	10	2	4	38	20	18	32
Canterbury Berries	17	9	2	6	28	27	1	29
Eastern Suburbs	17	8	3	6	37	24	13	27
Leichhardt Tigers	17	7	5	5	28	24	4	26
Bankstown City	17	6	4	7	24	25	-1	22
Central Coast	17	4	3	10	23	33	-10	15
Ryde City Gunners	16	3	4	9	15	28	-13	13
Sutherland Shire	17	3	4	10	13	30	-17	13
St George Saints	17	1	2	14	14	48	-34	5

U-21: Parramatta Eagles 2 bt Bankstown City Lions 0, St George Saints 1 drew Central Coast 1, Leichhardt Tigers 1 drew Macarthur Rams 1, Blacktown City 3 bt Eastern Suburbs 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 bt Canterbury Berries 0, Sutherland Sharks 2 bt Ryde City Gunners 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Bonnyrigg WE	17	12	2	3	56	19	37	38
Parramatta Eagles	16	12	2	2	38	16	22	38
Eastern Suburbs	17	9	4	4	37	23	14	31
Blacktown City	17	9	4	4	36	23	13	31
Macarthur Rams	16	9	2	5	34	21	13	29
Leichhardt Tigers	17	7	3	7	31	32	-1	24
Canterbury Berries	17	7	2	8	31	31	0	23
St George Saints	17	7	2	8	27	31	-4	23
Bankstown City	17	4	2	11	20	34	-14	14
Sutherland Shire	16	4	2	10	19	38	-19	14
Ryde City Gunners	16	3	3	10	17	39	-22	12
Central Coast	17	2	2	13	21	60	-39	8

U-18: Parramatta Eagles 0 drew Ryde City 0, Parramatta Eagles 0 drew Bankstown City Lions 0, Central Coast 2 bt St George Saints 1, Leichhardt Tigers 3 bt Macarthur Rams 2, Blacktown City 2 bt Eastern Suburbs 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 bt Canterbury Berries 1, Ryde City Gunners 2 drew Sutherland Sharks 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Parramatta Eagles	17	13	3	1	45	9	36	42
Blacktown City	17	10	3	4	29	17	12	33
Bankstown City	17	9	5	3	38	15	23	32
Ryde City Gunners	17	8	5	4	26	22	5	29
Macarthur Rams	16	8	3	5	27	19	8	27
Leichhardt Tigers	17	7	5	5	32	29	3	26
Eastern Suburbs	17	6	6	5	28	39	-1	24
Bonnyrigg WE	16	6	2	8	25	31	-6	20
St George Saints	16	4	4	8	26	27	-1	16
Central Coast	17	3	3	11	23	34	-11	12
Canterbury Berries	17	2	3	12	14	40	-26	9
Sutherland Shire	16	1	4	11	14	55	-41	7

DIVISION ONE — ROUND 21

	1ST	U/21	U/18
Moorebank Sports v Fairfield Bulls	0-1	3-3	5-2
Manly Warringah v Hurstville City	0-2	3-0	5-1
AC United v Belmore Hercules	2-0	0-0	5-0
Belmore Hercules v Mt Pritchard	1-3	3-3	1-3
AC United v Rockdale City Suns	2-0	0-2	4-3
Bathurst '75 v Stanmore Hawks	0-1	1-0	1-1
Auburn United v Illawarra Lions	1-1	12-1	1-1
Penrith Panthers v Hills United	0-2	1-2	1-3

First Grade: Fairfield Bulls 1 (D Iocca 30m) bt Moorebank Sports 0 , Hurstville City 2 (T Pontidas 44m, G Kalogeras 15m) bt Manly Warringah 0, AC United 2 (C Gibson 39m, R Younan 59m) bt Belmore Hercules 0, Mt Pritchard 3 (J. Bruni 32m, C. Lungu 33m, S. Djuric 87m) bt Belmore Hercules 1, AC United 2 (S. Zullo 64m, C. Gibson 80m) bt Rockdale City Suns 0, Stanmore Hawks 1 (N. Kartambis 52m) bt Bathurst '75 0, Auburn United 1 (T. Omac 86m) drew Illawarra Lions 1 (D. Tosevski 57m), Hills United 2 (P. Vezos 23m, A. Bow 71m) bt Penrith Panthers 0.

TIGERS RETURN TO FORM

By John Economos

Leichhardt Tigers, with a vastly improved performance from the previous week, forced well-deserved 2-2 draw against Super League leaders the Macarthur Rams last Sunday at Lambert Park.

In fact, with less than three minutes left on the clock the Tigers led 2-1, but powerful 78th minute substitute Luke Tomich 'balanced the books' at 2-2 with a fine header from a deflected ball well inside the Tigers' den.

The Rams charged ahead in the 41st minute after Leichhardt's midfielder Phil Treharne lost possession, enabling striker Eric Williams to zip in easily and drive into the top left corner.

However, just two minutes before the break the Tigers balanced up through an excellent free kick taken and scored by central midfielder Eric Hristodoulou.

The very well drilled and organised Rams held superiority for most of the first session with lateral defender Dion Valle, central marker Martin Bourke and striker Eric Williams getting through a ton of work.

Leichhardt in the second half started to hit back with mobile striker John Buonavoglia catching the Rams out on a couple of occasions with bursts down the flanks.

In fact it was Buonavoglia who laid the foundations in the 78th minute for 63rd minute substitute Daniele Testore to score and lift Leichhardt for the first time into the lead in this duel.

Busting down the right Bonavoglia drove a square ball towards the first post where Rams' 'keeper John Crawley spilt the hot missile, presenting a grateful Testore the simplest of tapins.

The lanky Rams' 'screener' Richard Lloyd, nine minutes from the end, cracked a sweet rocketting drive from 35 metres that whistled perilously close.

Rams' coach Casey De Bruin, reflected after the match: "The first half was relatively even, even though we were coasting a little, but in the second half Buonavoglia caught us out a couple of times. We improved a lot later and they (the Tigers) showed a lot of character to hold us out, but near the end we had them on toast I felt."

He continued: "It's going to be the last six odd rounds that they will cause trouble for everyone. This was our 13th straight match without loss," ended a pleased De Bruin.

Meanwhile Leichhardt's coach and former international centre-back Arno Bertogna, was full of praise for some of his promoted youngsters: "The kids played well and it was a good team effort that showed that we can now really compete with anyone in the Super League. The development of the young ones such as Jay (striker Anderson), Steve (defender Cklamovski) and Daniele (Testore) is starting to pay dividends."

Best for Leichhardt were skipper and sweeper Jeremy Pettenon and teenagers Steve Cklamovski and Jay Anderson, whilst for the League leaders their outstanding performers were sweeper Dion Valle, striker Eric Williams and central marker Martin Bourke.

LEICHHARDT TIGERS: Catlin, Guzzo, Bazdaric, Pettenon, Tesoro, Cklamovski: Alexiou (Testore 63rd), Hristodoulou, Treharne, : Buonavoglia, Anderson.

MACARTHUR RAMS: Crawley, Kerr, Valle, Bourke, O'Donnell, (Tomich 78th), Reid, Rastell, Lloyd, Macerola, Whiddett, Williams.

Scorers: Leichhardt Tigers-Hristodoulou 43rd, Testore 71st. Macarthur Rams-Williams 41st, Tomich 87th.

Referee: M.Breeze.

DIVISION ONE - FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Fairfield Bulls	19	15	1	3	43	17	26	46
Stanmore Hawks	20	14	2	4	47	20	27	44
Hurstville City	20	14	1	5	42	21	21	43
Auburn United	20	9	5	6	34	32	2	32
Penrith Panthers	19	8	4	7	25	23	2	28
Manly Warringah	20	7	6	7	31	26	5	27
Bathurst '75	19	7	6	6	21	25	-4	27
Illawarra Lions	20	7	4	9	26	26	0	25
Rockdale City Suns	21	8	1	12	40	42	-2	25
Moorebank Sports	19	7	4	8	23	31	-8	25
AC United	20	5	7	8	28	33	-5	22
Hills United	20	4	4	12	21	44	-23	16
Belmore Hercules	18	3	5	10	17	36	-19	14
Mt Pritchard	19	3	2	14	25	47	-22	11

U-21 : Moorebank Sports 3 drew Fairfield Bulls 3, Manly Warringah 3 bt Hurstville City 0, AC United 0 drew Belmore Hercules 0, Belmore Hercules 3 drew Mt Pritchard 3, Rockdale City Suns 2 bt AC United 0, Bathurst '75 1 bt Stanmore Hawks 0, Auburn United 12 bt Illawarra Lions 1, Hills United 2 bt Penrith Panthers 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Hills United	20	13	3	4	46	19	27	42
Manly Warringah	20	12	4	4	44	22	22	40
Fairfield Bulls	19	11	5	3	65	28	37	38
AC United	19	10	5	4	39	25	14	35
Rockdale City Suns	21	10	4	7	57	40	17	34
Bathurst '75	20	8	6	6	35	23	12	30
Moorebank Sports	19	7	8	4	35	28	7	29
Penrith Panthers	19	7	6	6	31	27	4	27
Auburn United	20	8	3	9	49	50	-1	27
Mt Pritchard	19	7	3	9	38	40	-2	25
Stanmore Hawks	21	7	3	11	31	35	-4	24
Hurstville City	19	6	1	12	27	56	-29	19
Belmore Hercules	18	4	3	11	25	47	-23	15
Illawarra Lions	20	0	0	20	16	97	-81	0

U-18: Moorebank Sports 5 bt Fairfield Bulls 2, Manly Warringah 5 bt Hurstville City 1, AC United 5 bt Belmore Hercules 0, Mt Pritchard 3 bt Belmore Hercules 1, AC United 4 bt Rockdale City Suns 3, Bathurst '75 1 drew Stanmore Hawks 1, Auburn United 1 drew Illawarra Lions 1, Hills United 3 bt Penrith Panthers 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Bathurst '75	20	15	5	2	47	20	27	46
Manly Warringah	20	14	3	3	52	16	36	45
Stanmore Hawks	21	13	2	6	39	25	15	41
Illawarra Lions	20	12	2	6	64	33	31	38
Moorebank Sports	19	11	3	5	41	20	21	36
Hills United	20	9	5	6	37	32	5	32
Fairfield Bulls	19	10	2	6	29	28	1	32
Mt Pritchard	19	9	2	8	36	25	12	29
AC United	18	9	1	8	37	29	8	28
Penrith Panthers	19	7	2	10	28	35	-6	23
Rockdale City Suns	20	5	4	11	39	43	-4	19
Belmore Hercules	18	3	1	14	26	62	-36	10
Hurstville City	19	1	4	14	19	66	-47	7
Auburn United	20	0	3	17	16	79	-63	3

DIV 2: First Grade: Dulwich Hill 2 drew Gladesville United 2, Greystanes 4 bt University of NSW 1, Hajduk Wanderers 1 bt Liverpool City 0, Hurstville ZSC 4 bt Alexander Warriors 1, Arncliffe Scots 3 bt Sydney District 1, Mt Druitt Town Rangers 3 bt Parramatta City 1.

DIVISION TWO - FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Dulwich Hill	17	14	3	0	55	16	39	45
Hajduk Wanderers	16	12	4	0	45	9	36	40
Hurstville ZSC	17	10	5	2	39	22	17	35
Sydney District	17	8	0	9	25	33	-8	24
Arncliffe Scots	17	7	2	8	33	31	2	23
Alexander Warriors	17	7	1	9	35	34	1	22
Greystanes	17	6	3	8	25	31	-6	21
Mt Druitt Town	17	5	5	7	31	32	-1	20
Parramatta City	16	4	3	9	22	41	-19	15
Gladesville United	15	3	4	8	23	36	-13	13
Liverpool City	16	3	3	10	14	32	-18	12
Uni Of NSW	16	3	1	12	13	43	-30	10

U-21: Dulwich Hill 5 bt Gladesville United 0, Greystanes 2 bt University of NSW 0, Hajduk Wanderers 8 bt Liverpool City 2, Hurstville ZSC 3 bt Alexander Warriors 1, Sydney District 2 drew Arncliffe Scots 2, Mt Druitt Town Rangers 5 bt Parramatta City 1 Mt Druitt Town Rangers.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Greystanes	17	14	1	2	34	18	16	43
Hajduk Wanderers	16	13	0	3	77	14	63	39
Dulwich Hill	17	10	4	3	52	20	32	34
Mt Druitt Town	17	10	3	4	45	25	20	33
Uni Of NSW	16	7	3	6	21	20	1	24
Hurstville ZSC	17	7	1	9	36	37	-1	22
Gladesville United	15	5	3	7	23	26	-3	18
Parramatta City	16	4	3	9	23	36	-13	15
Sydney District	16	4	3	9	17	53	-36	15
Liverpool City	16	3	5	8	28	40	-12	14
Alexander Warriors	16	4	1	11	20	45	-25	13
Arncliffe Scots 17	3	3	11	15	50	-35	12	

U-18: Gladesville United 3 bt Dulwich Hill 1, Greystanes 1 bt University of NSW 0, Hajduk Wanderers 2 bt Liverpool City 0, Hurstville ZSC 11 bt Alexander Warriors 0, Sydney District 3 bt Arncliffe Scots 0, Mt Druitt Town Rangers 4 bt Parramatta City 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Mt Druitt Town	17	16	1	0	61	5	56	49
Hajduk Wanderers	16	12	3	1	86	8	77	39
Gladesville United	15	11	1	3	57	16	41	34
Liverpool City	16	10	2	4	32	14	18	32
Sydney District	15	10	2	4	32	14	18	32
Greystanes	17	8	0	9	37	23	14	24
Dulwich Hill	17	7	2	8	37	24	13	23
Hurstville ZSC	16	5	2	9	21	29	-8	17

See pages 19-29 for all the World Cup Match Reports and the most up-to-date pictures.

NSW STATE LEAGUES

Parramatta City	15	5	2	9	34	36	-2	16
Arncliffe Scots	17	3	0	14	17	95	-78	9
Uni Of NSW	16	2	1	13	19	43	-24	7
Alexander Warriors	15	0	0	15	2	129	-127	0

DIV 3: First Grade: Glebe Wanderers 0 drew White City 0, Trasandinos 4 bt Hawkesbury City 1, Camden Tigers 3 bt Flamencos 0, Sydney University 1 bt Colo Colo 0, Prospect United 0 drew Granville Greenisland 0, Hakoah 3 bt Maroubra United 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Glebe Wanderers	14	9	4	1	32	16	16	31
Sydney University	15	9	2	4	47	23	25	29
Camden Tigers	15	8	2	5	36	33	3	26
Trasandinos	14	7	4	3	28	23	5	25
Colo Colo	14	7	1	6	22	25	-2	22
Maroubra United	14	6	1	7	41	32	9	19
White City	15	4	5	6	24	38	-14	17
Flamencos	15	5	1	9	28	36	-8	16
Hakoah	14	5	1	8	23	31	-8	16
Prospect United	13	4	2	7	18	20	-2	14
Granville Greenisland	14	3	5	6	29	39	-10	14
Hawkesbury City	13	4	0	9	20	33	-13	12

Second Grade: Glebe Wanderers 1 bt White City 0, Trasandinos 2 bt Hawkesbury City 0, Camden Tigers 2 bt Flamencos 0, Colo Colo 4 bt Sydney University 2, Prospect United 2 bt Granville Greenisland 0, Hakoah 4 bt Maroubra United 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Flamencos	15	9	2	4	25	18	7	29
Glebe Wanderers	14	7	4	3	25	11	13	25
Trasandinos	14	7	3	4	25	18	6	24
Sydney University	15	6	5	4	30	21	9	23
Prospect United	13	7	2	4	22	13	9	23
White City	15	7	2	6	34	27	7	23
Colo Colo	14	7	2	5	25	24	1	23
Camden Tigers	15	5	3	7	25	27	-2	18
Granville Greenisland	14	4	4	6	19	20	-1	16
Maroubra United	14	4	1	9	20	39	-19	13
Hakoah	14	3	3	8	14	31	-17	12
Hawkesbury City	13	2	3	8	11	24	-13	9

DIV 4: First Grade: Holy Cross Ryde 4 bt Sydney Crescent Star 0, Springwood 4 bt Lithgow Workmens 1, Nepean District 3 bt CSI Schofields 1, St Josephs 5 bt Fairfield Kings 4, Fraser Park 4 bt United Eagles 1, Prairiewood United 7 bt Balmain Tigers 2, Marrickville 5 bt Earlwood Hermes 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Fraser Park	14	12	2	0	41	7	34	38
Prairiewood United	15	9	6	0	42	20	22	33
Sydney Crescent Star	15	9	2	4	33	25	9	29
Holy Cross Ryde	14	8	3	3	31	15	16	27
Nepean District	16	7	3	6	24	19	5	24
Fairfield City Kings	15	6	5	4	31	18	13	23
Marrickville	16	6	5	4	31	18	13	23
CSI Schofields	14	6	2	6	24	28	-4	20
St Josephs	15	5	5	5	25	30	-5	20
Balmain Tigers	15	4	3	8	26	30	-3	15
Springwood	14	4	2	8	30	32	-2	14
United Eagles	14	2	q6	6	21	26	-5	12
Lithgow Workmen's	15	2	1	12	18	55	-37	7
Earlwood Hermes	14	0	1	13	11	65	-54	1

Second Grade: Holy Cross Ryde 3 bt Sydney Crescent Star 1, Springwood 4 bt Lithgow Workmens 1, Nepean District 3 bt CSI Schofields 1, Fairfield Kings 3 bt St Josephs 2, Fraser Park 5 bt United Eagles 1, Prairiewood United 0 drew Balmain Tigers 0, Marrickville 3 bt Earlwood Hermes 0 (Win by Forfeit).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Nepean District	16	11	2	3	46	13	33	35
Fraser Park	14	9	4	1	34	14	20	31
Springwood	14	8	3	3	46	21	25	27
Marrickville	16	8	2	6	38	26	12	26
Balmain Tigers	15	7	5	3	26	14	12	26
Prairewood United	16	7	4	5	39	28	11	25
Holy Cross Ryde	14	6	4	4	25	17	8	22
CSI Schofields	15	6	4	5	29	26	3	22
Fairfield City Kings	15	5	4	6	29	31	-2	19
St Joseph's	15	5	3	7	34	37	-3	18
Lithgow Workmen's	15	5	1	9	27	45	-18	16
United Eagles	14	3	0	11	19	42	-23	9
Earlwood Hermes	14	3	0	11	19	42	-23	9
Sydney Crescent Star	15	2	0	13	24	68	-44	6

DIV 5: First Grade: White Valley 1 bt Bossy 0, Liverpool Olympic 1 drew Eastern Creek Pioneers 1, Homentmen 5 drew AVA United 5, Sporting SCC 5 bt Liverpool Warriors 1, Racing 3 bt Kosciuszko 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Auburn Star	12	6	4	2	28	14	14	22
White Valley	12	6	3	3	21	15	6	21
AVA United	12	5	3	4	30	23	7	18
Eastern Creek Pioneer	9	5	3	1	19	12	6	18
Homenetmen	12	5	5	5	26	29	-3	16
Sporting SCC	14	5	5	6	22	29	-7	16
Bossy	12	3	6	3	19	21	-2	15
Kosciusko	12	6	2	4	29	25	4	13
Racing	12	2	7	3	19	16	2	13
Liverpool Olympic	12	2	6	4	20	19	1	12
Liverpool Warriors	13	1	2	10	12	41	-29	5

Second Grade: White Valley 3 bt Bossy 0, Liverpool Olympic 3 bt Eastern Creek Pioneers 2, Homentmen 4 bt AVA United 0, Sporting SCC 3 bt Liverpool Warriors 1, Racing 7 bt Kosciuszko 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
AVA United	12	9	0	3	30	17	13	27
White Valley	13	8	2	2	35	17	18	26
Auburn Star	12	8	3	39	20	19	25	
Sporting SCC	13	8	1	4	34	26	8	25
Liverpool Olympic	12	6	2	4	25	17	8	20
Eastern Creek Pioneer	9	6	1	2	26	13	13	19
Kosciusko	12	3	4	5	26	33	-7	13
Racing	12	4	0	8	24	29	-5	12
Homenetmen	12	3	2	7	20	31	-11	11
Liverpool Warriors	13	1	2	10	9	36	-27	5
Bossy	11	1	1	9	5	34	-29	4

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE: DIV 1: First Grade: Gladesville Ravens 3 bt Moorebank Sports 1, Marconi Fairfield 1 drew NSW INST/Academy 1, Sydney United 5 bt Nepean Panthers 1, NNSW ITC/Academny 6 bt UWS Macarthur 0, Sutherland Sharks 8 bt Eastern Suburbs 0. Second Grade: Gladesville Ravens 5 bt Moorebank Sports 0, Marconi Fairfield 2 bt NSW INST/Academy 0, Sydney United 5 bt Nepean Panthers 2, NNSW ITC/Academy 6 bt UWS Macarthur 0, Sutherland Sharks 2 bt Eastern Suburbs 1.

WOMEN'S STATE LEAGUE - DIVISION ONE - FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
NSW Inst/Academy	13	11	2	0	70	7	63	35
NNSW ITC/Academy	12	9	3	0	49	5	44	30
Sydney United	12	8	1	3	56	14	42	25
Marconi Fairfield	12	7	3	2	56	11	45	24
Sutherland Sharks	12	7	2	3	33	11	22	23
Gladesville Ravens	12	5	0	7	18	45	-27	15
UWS Macarthur	13	4	0	9	24	58	-34	12
Moorebank Sports	9	2	0	7	9	41	-32	6
Nepean Panthers	12	1	1	10	12	69	-57	4
Eastern Suburbs	13	0	0	13	6	72	-66	0

DIV 2: Central Coast WSA 1 bt Gladesville Ravens 0, Bathurst City 8 bt Bankstown City 0, St George Association 1 drew Sutherland Shire 1, Manly Warringah 2 bt Shoalhaven Association 1, Wollongong City 1 drew Roselands 1.

NSW Soccer Federation

SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 17

Saturday July 4

Central Coast vs Leichhardt Tigers
Pluim Park, 6pm

Sunday July 5

Canterbury M/ville vs Parramatta Eagles
Henson Park, 3pm

Bankstown City vs St George Saints
Jensen Park, 3pm

Macarthur Rams vs Blacktown City
Lynwood Park, 3pm

Sutherland Sharks vs Bonnyrigg W.E.
Seymour Shaw Park, 3pm

Ryde City vs Eastern Suburbs
Wentworth Park, 3pm

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WOMENS STATE LEAGUE - DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Central Coast WSA	12	11	1	0	51	11	40	34
St George Assoc	13	10	2	1	40	9	31	32
Shoalhaven Assoc	12	8	2	2	44	12	32	26
Manly Warringah	13	8	2	3	37	23	14	26
Bathurst City	13	5	2	6	34	28	6	17
Roselands	12	4	3	5	28	32	-4	15
Wollongong City	12	2	2	8	13	27	-14	8
Gladesville Ravens	11	2	2	7	8	22	-14	8
Sutherland Shire	13	2	1	10	21	46	-25	7
Bankstown City	11	0	1	10	10	76	-66	1

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE — ROUND 17

	G/13	G/14	G/15	G/16
Blacktown v Manly Warringah	1-1	1-0	1-1	1-1
Eastern Suburbs v Marconi Fairfield	2-2	1-1	0-5	0-6
Newcastle Breakers v Sutherland Assoc	0-4	1-0	4-0	3-0
Sydney Olympic v Wollongong City	4-3	1-2	4-1	1-1
Sydney United v Parramatta Eagles	0-3	2-1	0-2	1-4
Southern Districts v Macarthur Rams	0-0	3-2	2-0	0-2
Leichhardt Tigers v Gladesville Hornsby	1-4	1-7	3-2	0-2
Sydney United v Gladesville Hornsby				0-0
Wollongong City v Gladesville Hornsby	2-1	1-2	0-3	1-1
Macarthur Rams v Newcastle Breakers	2-0	3-1	1-2	1-0

GRADE 13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Sydney Olympic	16	16	0	0	54	11	48
Gladesville Hornsby	16	10	2	4	32	16	32
Sutherland Assoc	17	9	4	4	30	20	31
Parramatta Eagles	16	9	3	4	25	19	30
Eastern Suburbs	17	9	2	6	30	21	29
Southern Districts	17	8	3	6	27	29	27
Macarthur Rams	16	7	5	4	35	21	26
Sydney United	17	7	1	9	26	44	22
Newcastle Breakers	16	5	2	9	23	29	17
Wollongong City	16	4	5	8	24	25	16
Manly Warringah	16	4	4	8	16	35	16
Leichhardt Tigers	15	4	1	10	22	32	13
Blacktown City	17	3	3	11	9	22	12
Marconi Fairfield	16	1	2	13	13	42	5

GRADE 14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Gladesville Hornsby	16	14	1	1	47	16	43
Southern Districts	17	13	3	1	57	15	42
Blacktown City	17	13	0	4	29	14	39
Sydney Olympic	16	12	2	2	49	11	38
Wollongong City	16	9	4	3	36	20	31
Sutherland Assoc	17	8	3	6	31	25	27
Sydney United	17	7	1	9	20	26	22
Macarthur Rams	16	5	56	26	18	20	
Leichhardt Tigers	15	5	5	5	21	25	20
Newcastle Breakers	16	6	1	9	19	36	19
Parramatta Eagles	16	2	2	12	9	34	6
Eastern Suburbs	17	2	2	13	16	48	8
Marconi Faifield	16	1	2	13	5	38	5
Manly Warringah	16	1	1	14	6	45	4

GRADE 15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Sydney Olympic	16	12	2	2	48	19	38
Parramatta Eagles	16	12	2	2	36	16	38
Blacktown City	17	10	3	4	31	24	33
Gladesville Hornsby	16	8	5	2	38	12	32
Leichhardt Tigers	15	9	2	4	60	27	29
Newcastle Breakers	16	9	1	6	35	26	28
Marconi Fairfield	16	7	4	5	29	18	25
Sutherland Assoc	17	7	1	9	30	35	22
Southern Districts	17	7	0	10	30	38	21
Sydney United	17	4	5	9	18	26	16
Manly Warringah	16	3	5	8	19	32	14
Macarthur Rams	16	2	5	9	13	37	11
Eastern Suburbs	17	3	0	14	16	62	9
Wollongong City	16	2	2	12	13	43	8

GRADE 16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Parramatta Eagles	16	13	1	2	46	18	40
Marconi Fairfield	16	8	2	5	37	19	29
Southern Districts	17	8	4	5	30	18	28
Newcastle Breakers	16	9	0	7	23	16	27
Gladesville Hornsby	18	8	3	7	20	16	27
Sydney United	18	7	5	6	24	28	26
Blacktown City	17	7	3	7	24	22	24
Manly Warringah	16	6	6	4	16	19	24
Wollongong City	17	5	7	5	18	17	22
Sydney Olympic	16	5	4	7	20	23	19
Macarthur Rams	16	3	8	5	14	17	17
Sutherland Assoc	17	3	4	10	18	38	13
Eastern Suburbs	17	3	4	10	13	37	13
Leichhardt Tigers	15	1	7	7	12	27	-15

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AUSSIE FEATURES

GIPPSLAND'S PACIFIC POWER

By Dwyght Tuffnell & Aidan Ormond

Gippsland Falcons are aiming to make the approaching season their best ever, on and off the field. Falcons, geographically Australia's most 'regional' NSL team, are fighting back after enduring problems which have hampered their progress.

The club have appointed the well-respected Stuart Munro as its new coach to take over the work that Frank Arok had started, particularly in the commitment to developing youngsters in the area.

This, the club say, is essential. Not only will it give the club more players to choose from, on its own doorstep, but it will also help another way — solving a problem the Falcons have had since their first days in the national competition.

Many of their squad live in Melbourne and face a two hour trip just to get to training.

The Falcons have made it a little easier on the Melbourne based players — training at their ground in Morwell one night and then halfway between the Latrobe Valley and Melbourne the next.

"The Falcons have suffered due to the economic problems in the region," says Falcons media liason officer Damian Tripodi.

"One of the major reasons for this", he explains, "is the sell off of SEC, the area's biggest employer.

"With the privatisation of the SEC and other power stations, 10,000 jobs have gone."

Meanwhile on the park, Gippsland Falcons' exciting young goalkeeper Bojo Jevdjevic will get his shot at the big time this year with the announcement that Jim Kourtis has left the club for Sydney Olympic.

Bojo, who hails from Yugoslavia, impressed last season with several appearances in the Ericsson Cup.

Club President Fred Di Sipio believes Kourtis' decision has presented the club with a tremendous opportunity.

"Anyone who saw Bojo play against Sydney United last season would rate him the equal of any keeper in the country," said Di Sipio.

"Jim's move has created a window of opportunity for Bojo," Di Sipio added.

It is expected that the Falcons will demand a sizeable transfer fee for Kourtis. "Jim was a great player for us, he was our captain and an excellent leader, so we will obtain due compensation for his loss," he said.

With a ready-made replacement in Bojo, Falcons will be able to focus its recruiting energy in the scoring and midfield departments.

New coach Stuart Munro and his coaching staff have been busy scouting the Premier League and out of contract Ericsson Cup players to bolster both areas.

The majority of last season's list is already signed up for the forthcoming season and the club is acting quickly to ensure that Munro has a full list to work with when training commences in August.

"We're talking to the likes of Tricarico, Osman, Marcina and other uncontracted players at the moment," said Di Sipio.

"We expect to announce some re-signings in the next few weeks," he added hopefully.

Meanwhile, Munro will be at Falcons Park full-time from 1 July 1998 after moving to the area from Sydney with his wife.

The ex-Blackburn Rovers star hopes to start working immediately with players not participating in the Premier League so that the entire squad is match fit for what should be a big year for Gippsland.

And with 'Mr Magic' Archie Thompson in attack, things are looking very promising ...

The face of the Falcons in 1998 ... Archie Thompson.

ARCHIE SET TO BUST A FEW NETS

Last week Falcons' Archie Thompson was in camp in Sydney with the Olyroos following a three-nil series victory over a hapless Kiwi side. Despite a recent injury, Thompson played in all three games. Fellow Olyroo Leo Carle, describes him as "very skilful, very quick and a very exciting player."

Fred di Sipio, Falcons President made the comment that "Archie is a real crowd pleaser and he is sure to entertain big time this year. He has the opportunity to stamp himself as a leading player in the national competition."

As for the man himself he spoke to ABSW and said: "I've got one more year on my contract with Falcons. Should be a good new season. We've been working on a few things, I believe we could possibly make the top six.

"Hopefully at the end of the season I can go overseas, but first I want a good season with the club. I would really like to go to Spain, and I will be a free agent by the end of the year.

"The club is just great and the people in Gippsland are really nice and very encouraging. If you're having a bad run with form they still are behind you and they don't slag you. They have always encouraged me to do well."

Thompson is such a rare commodity in Australian Soccer: the sort of player that excites fans and scores spectacular goals.

And that's got to be good for the game. And for Gippsland Falcons.

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SOCCER-WIDOWS SURVIVAL GUIDE!

"My husband hasn't missed a World Cup game *LIVE* on TV yet — from Australia! He's up at 11, 1 and 5 every night ... *what makes grown men to this???*"

In recognition of the silent force that backs up us soccer lads, Kate Grenot has compiled a fun book called the Soccer Widow's Survival Guide.

SWSG is a collection of cartoons and quips that play on the hilarous habits of a Soccer Widow and her man.

"People will think I'm really like this," said the author's husband.

"Looks like complete normality to me," said the author's husband's ally.

Widows can rate their partner using the Soccer Symptoms Scale, learn some tactics for doing a good soccer deal ... or simply select strategies for *revenge!*

"The book is direct and cheerful, encouraging gals to see the humour in our affliction (!) and to know they are not alone."

SWSG's visual nature distinguishes it from other books by women about men's sport.

We have been reading this in the office and it is a brilliant little book and an excellent present for us SoccerHeads to give or receive. Below is one of the cartoons in SWSG. Look familiar??

Does he flake out at 9pm on weeknights but get up at 3am for every overseas live game?

Soccer Canberra

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By Graham Cooke

PERINOVIC WINS IT IN THRILLER

A golden goal from big striker Marko Perinovic ended Canberra City's brave resistance, and eased Belconnen United's frustrations in the IEA Federation Cup final on Sunday.

Perinovic's header, 69 seconds into the first period of extra time, gave United a 2-1 win - its first in three consecutive final appearances.

In 1996 it lost to Weston Creek Royals 3-0 and last year to Canberra Olympic by the same score.

City, second from the bottom of the ACT Premier League with just two wins in nine games, disproved any suggestion it was a cup final imposter with a battling display against the powerful Belconnen, making this one of the best cup finals in recent years.

It also has had to cope with an off-field cash crisis which is threatening to make the final its last game. Its licensed backer, the City Club of Canberra, said in mid-week it could no longer offer any financial support because of the downturn in the Canberra economy, and money spent on supporting the Canberra Cosmos.

The players and coaching staff have agreed to work for nothing until the end of the season, and president Ramon Montero said after the game cash and pledges had been rolling in all day.

"We need $10,000 to see the season out, and I believe we can find this, although a lot will depend on talks with a sponsor who may supply half that amount," he said.

Belconnen got away to a fast start with a goal after four minutes, Matt Whyte firing in a shot which City goalkeeper Ben McGuire should have held, but instead allowed the ball under his body and into the net.

Perhaps in the belief it was all downhill from then on, Belconnen did not press home the advantage and instead allowed City its best attacking spell of the game. Veteran player coach Steve Bryant, the oldest player to appear in a Federation Cup final, set up several of the moves, but it was Paul Panebianco who got up to a 30th minute cross to send a header looping over the head of goalkeeper Blair Machin.

It was not a pretty goal, but it counted, and Belconnen had a battle on its hands. Through most of the second half it had its opponent pinned back, but some heroics in defence, coupled with indifferent United finishing, failed to produce the winner.

That had to wait until the second minute of extra time. With the crowd settling in for another half-hour of soccer, and possibly penalty kicks, Marko Perinovic finally got away from marker Gavin McKay to head the winner.

Belconnen player-coach Lino Fiorese said his team had not got enough players into the penalty area at crucial moments, and had failed to produce quality crosses. "I was as guilty of that as anyone," said Fiorese, who brought himself on nine minutes from the end of ordinary time.

Bryant said Belconnen had put City under tremendous pressure.

"Their power in the air worried us a lot," he said.

"But we stuck to our game plan, and it took a golden goal to beat us.

"In the end we came close enough to winning it. Considering what the players have been through with all the doubts over the club's future, we did really well."

Assuming City's cash crisis is resolved, the two sides will meet again on Sunday in a league game, with City hoping it will be third time lucky after two 2-1 losses. United will be without Machin, who leaves tomorrow (Wed) for trials in Britain, but Fiorese said the club has three teenage goalkeepers vying for the spot.

"I won't make a decision on who will get the job until after training this week," he said. "They are all green, but our aim is do our defensive work properly in the second half of the season and not leave them anything too difficult."

KEWELL CANBERRA

Harry Kewell and Steve Dozspot

LANGONE'S LAMENT: 9-1

Monday mornings would not be many people's choice of a favourite time of the week. Last Monday in Canberra it was cold, it was raining, and as Oscar Langone brushed the sleep from his eyes, there was the realisation that the previous day, his team had lost 9-1.

That's a receipe for pulling the sheets over your head and letting the day happen without you, but the Queanbeyan City coach could never be accused of failing to face realities.

"We played badly, there's no doubt about that...our defenders were too slow," he said.

"At 3-1 down we were still in the game at half time, but then they broke away and scored a goal within seconds of the re-start. That was really the end of it for us."

It was only just over two months ago that Queanbeyan City was being tipped as one of the dark horses of the ACT Premier League title race.. instead it is back in its familiar position just off the bottom of the table. What went wrong?

Among other things, a shocking run of injuries, Langone says.

X-rays have revealed a broken bone in Paul Reid's ankle and the big defender will be out for the rest of the season; Manuel Sermeno has a groin strain and Dane Gjorgievski a troublesome hamstring.

"In all, we've had an unbelievable run with injuries this year," the coach said. "Obviously we are going to miss Paul and there's nothing we can do about that, but if the other problems clear up, and we don't get a fresh crop, I'm confident we can do better in the second half of the season."

Thus sparing Langone from any more attacks of Mondayitis.

OLYMPIC'S YOUNG STAR INJURED

Canberra Olympic's young defender, Eli Salloum, got some first hand experience of the vagaries of football last week.

One moment he was the talk of the Premier League, tipped as a possible Young Player of the Year, the next he is hobbling about with an ankle in plaster.

The incident: An innocuous training ground fall as Olympic prepared for last week's game against Weston Creek Royals.

Fortunately for Salloum and Olympic, the injury is not as bad as first thought. "The hospital slapped the plaster on when they thought he had a broken bone," coach Vic Fernandez said.

"But they looked at the x-rays again and decided it was probably only ligament damage.

"Eli will keep the plaster on for a week as a precaution, then we'll take it from there. It's possible he could be back within three weeks."

IEA FEDERATION CUP

Final

Belconnen United	2	Canberra City	1

Third Place Play-Off

Canberra Olympic	8	Capital City Suns	2

NOVELL ACT P/L

Division One. Round 10. Sunday, July 5

Canberra City	v	Belconnen United	Majura Oval
Canberra Deakin	v	University of Canberra	Deakin Oval
Canberra Olympic	v	Capital City Suns	O'Connor Oval
Queanbeyan City	v	Weston Creek Royals	High Street
Gungahlin Juventus	v	Monaro	Jamison Oval

Firsts 2pm. Under 23s noon

Division Two. Round 12. Saturday, July 4

Defence Academy	v	White Eagles	Addison Road
ANU	v	Tuggeranong Utd	North Oval
Burns Club	v	Cooma	Kambah Oval No 2 (1)
O'Connor Knights	v	Canberra Defence	O'Connor Oval

Firsts 3pm. Under 23s 1pm

Division 2

White Eagles	5	O'Connor Knights	0

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	PTS
Burns Club	11	8	0	0	3	38	20	24
ANU	9	7	1	0	1	26	15	23
White Eagles	12	7	0	0	5	29	16	21
Cooma	10	5	2	0	3	30	14	19
O'Connor Knights	10	6	0	0	4	13	16	18
Tuggeranong United	10	3	1	0	6	19	28	11
Defence Academy	11	3	0	0	8	16	29	9
Canberra Defence	9	0	0	0	9	5	38	0

Golden Boot (after Round 9)

Peter Buljan	Capital City Suns	9
Matt Valeri	Gungahlin Juventus	8
Marko Perinovic	Belconnen United	7
Marcello Fernandez	Canberra Olympic	7
Scott Manson	Belconnen United	6
Steve Lazzari	Weston Creek Royals	6
Shane Lyons	Capital City Suns	5
George Cattanach	Gungahlin Juventus	5
Daniel Macor	Monaro	5

Reserves: White Eagles 3 O'Connor Knights 0.

Points: White Eagles 26, ANU 25, Defence Academy 21, Burns Club 16, O'Connor Knights 16, Tuggeranong United 15, Canberra Defence 7, Cooma 5.

Youth League: Radford 1 Weston Creek Royals 10.

Points: Belconnen United 24, Weston Creek Royals 21, University of Canberra 20, Gungahlin Juventus 17, Canberra Deakin 16, Tuggeranong United 14, Radford 14, St Edmund's 14, Capital City Suns 13, Canberra City 13, Belconnen Strikers 12, Goulburn City 6, Queanbeyan City 2, Canberra Olympic 0.

ACT STATE LEAGUE

Division 1: Blue Light 6 Canberra City 4, Ginninderra 5 University of Canberra 2, Calwell 0 ANU 2.

Division 2: Ginninderra 4 University of Canberra 2, Dedence Academy 4 ANU II 1.

Division 3: Fyshwick 3 Weston Creek Royals 2.

Division 4: Blue Light 1 Trojans 3, Calwell Valley 3 Weston Creek Royals 2, Harmonie 2 ANU 1.

DISCIPLINARY RECORD

Round Nine:

Red Cards	9	(6 in Round Eight)
Yellow Cards	99	(117 in Round Eight)

Victorian Soccer Federation

SOUTH DANDY ON A ROLL

SOUTH DANDENONG 3 FAWKNER 2

By Dwyght Tuffnell

South Dandenong kicked clear in the relegation battle, registering their third consecutive victory after defeating Fawkner Blues on Saturday in the Vic Premier League.

Fawkner have not won since round 15 and their position in the top five is shaky - their form leading up to the finals is a real concern.

They had the best of the early exchanges, including a good penalty claim tunred down when South Dandy's Adrian Savage brought down Ante Deak.

Shortly after they were reduced to ten men with the dismissal of Peter Bordignon for dissent.

The extra man gave the home side a clear advantage and helped them to the lead four minutes before half time when Reshat Mezensof was in the right spot after Maurice Gonzalez had parried Fadil Muriqi's free kick.

Their lead was short lived as Fawkner levelled just two minutes later after Joe Biskic had set up Deak to beat Omar Bradford from the edge of the penalty area.

The ten man Blues had their best chance to go ahead through Ivan Kelic but Bradford did well to save in the 57th minute.

Four minutes later South Dandy went in front courtesy of Pino Corallo, who was unmarked at the far post and easily converted Carlo Villani's cross.

South Dandy missed some great chances after that but appeared to have sewn up the points with another Mezensof goal in the 83rd minute.

But Fawkner came back with a goal from substitute Kamer Simsek who found the net after Biskic's free kick had come back off a post.

South: Bradford, Dzaferovski, Bell, Geri, Rasimi, Savage, Muriqi, Memeti, Corallo (Memedovski), Villani, R.Mezensof.

Blues: Gonzalez, Di Sauro (Sterjovski), Grimaud, P.Ferrante, Schipano, De Santis, Bordignon, Biskic, Deak, T.Simsek, Kelic (K.Simsek)

Votes: 3- R.Mezensof (SD), 2- Corallo (SD), 1- De Santis (FB).

FOUR GOALS IN FOUR MINUTES & TWO RED CARDS!

PORT MELBOURNE 2 GREEN GULLY 3

By John Rigas

Four goals in four minutes and two red cards between Port Melbourne Sharks and Green Gully Cavaliers kept the crowd on the edge of their seats at SS Anderson Reserve.

This exciting contest was witnessed by Olyroo coach Raul Blanco, who was keeping a watchful eye on Daniel Allsopp, Andy Vargas and Levent Osman for the up and coming South American tour.

Port Melbourne's Rodrigo Vargas was shown his marching orders after he committed a serious foul on John Didulica in the 26th minute.

Gully struck first blood when Zlatko Donev fired in a left foot shot to beat Sharks' goalkeeper Sam Frangos in the 53rd minute.

Donev's goal set the standard for the next three minutes with a flury of goals to come.

Port's Nick Palamaras scored an own goal when his backpass dribbled past Frangos in the Sharks' goal in the 54th minute.

One minute later the home side pulled a goal back when Allsopp put his strike past Chris Vella, Ante Kovacevic added Gully's third with a sweet strike from the edge of the box in the 56th minute.

Green Gully substitute Pece Stojcevski was sent off after an altercation with a Sharks player.

Allsopp scored his second with a shot from close range in the 88th minute.

Sharks: Frangos, A.Vargas, R.Vargas, Sonsini, Allsopp, Tsirtsakis (Latinopoulos), Tsaltas, Heath (Palatsides), Knezevic, Tsiakos, Palamaras.

Cavaliers: Vella, Dimitrelos, Osman, Kovacevic, Spiteri, Papadopoulos (Neceski), Brown (Douglas), Didulica, Mangos, Donev, Genovesi (Stojcevski).

Votes: 3-Allsopp (PMS), 2-Osman (GG), 1-Mangos (GG).

PRESTON'S SEASON ALMOST OVER?

ALTONA 2 PRESTON 1

By George Koukeris

In nearly sub-zero conditions, triple champions Altona Magic battled courageously against a determined Presion who needed three points to advance closer to the top five.

Altona set off on a cracking start, applying pressure to Preston's defence with some excellent manouevres in attack.

After a vigorous 43 minutes, Altona broke through when John Sapazovski found Nick Georgopoulos, whose shot rebounded off the post to the waiting Simon Micevski who scored from close range.

In the 68th minute Lions were given a lifeline when referee Carlo Graser awarded a penalty for a foul committed on Sash Markovski by Micevski.

Micevski was sent off and Markovski added another goal to his impressive tally fo the season from the penalty spot.

In the 84th minute Altona then won a penalty. The incident occured when Danny Lisolajski fouled substitute Vasko Trpcevski, impeding his clear path to goal.

Sash Becvinovski converted the kick to end any hope Preston had of victory and the slight chance that they may yet make the top five.

Magic: McGrath, Velkovski, Tasevski, Runje, Micevski, Markovski, Rusmir (Trpcevski), Georgopoulos, Becvinovski (Petrevski), Sapazovski, Fak.

Lions: Acevski, Drogriski, Lisolaksi, Ognenovski, Markovski, A.Burlak, Filiposki, Ivanov, Emsovski, Tricarico, Smirnis.

Votes: 3-Rusmir (AM), 2-Micevski (AM), 1-Smirnis (PL).

HOLLINGSWORTH DEVOURS GREENS!

BULLEEN 3 BENTLEIGH 1

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Bulleen Inter Kings are on course for a top three finish in the Premier League after another solid home victory, this time over Bentleigh Greens.

A finish in the first three will mean that the Kings will get the double chance in the finals, and avoid the dreaded elimination final.

To do that, they need to keep winning and they were never troubled in this game by the Greens.

Will Hastie tested Sean Keogh in the opening minutes before Danny Gnjidic opened the scoring for Bulleen in the 26th minute, heading home after Zdravko Atanasovski and John Waddell combined to set him up.

Six minutes later Eric Hollingsworth provided Agim Sherifovski with a superb through ball. Sherifovski just beat Bentleigh 'keeper Glenn Clarke to the ball and just managed to steer it in.

The Greens pulled a goal back right on the stroke of half time.

Tom Karapatsos and Hastie played a neat one-two to give Karapatsos the space to shoot past Keogh.

Bulleen wrapped up the three points in the 68th minute with Gnjidic again on target, heading in a pinpoint Hollingsworth cross.

Kings: Keogh, Valentic, Everetts, Della Rocca, Mazzini, Atanasovski, Waddell, Gnjidic (Collina), Sherifovski (Catalano), Grbac (Tartaglia), Hollingsworth.

Greens: Clarke, Karapatsos, Micheil, McDonagh, Constantinou, Drakos (Charalambous), Hastie, Van Egmond, Papettas (White), Oter, Todorovski (Kotsovolos).

Votes: 3-Hollingsworth (BK), 2-Karapatsos (BG), 1- Gnjidic (BK).

BERGERS' CONTROVERSIAL WIN

THOMASTOWN 1 HEIDELBERG 2

By Bert Van Bedaf

Heidelberg United's battle to avoid relegation continued on Sunday with a 2-1 win at Thomastown Zebras.

Heidelberg have now picked up a possible nine out of nine points and are not giving up their place in the Premier League up without a fight.

They took the lead after just five minutes when Zlatko Mihajlovic found the target for his fourth goal of the season.

Two minutes later they nearly added to their tally, Jim Grigorakis was unlucky to hit the bar.

But it was the home side who scored the next goal. Anthony Boschini and George Jolevski combined to release Nick Lazarevski who drilled his shot past Bojo Jevdjevic from an angle.

It was the Zebras turn to find the wood work next - Tony Lingurovski almost giving his side the lead when he hit a post.

Heidelberg's winner came in the 77th minute scored by Jeff Stefanidis, although the goal had a touch of controversy about it.

Shortly before Grigorakis had played the ball in for Stefanidis to score, the assistant referee flagged for an offside, but referee Cain Naumcevski waved it away.

Zebras: Manzella, Jolevski, Ardis, Angleovski, Grganovic, Cuculevski, Boschini, Slifkas, De Propertis, Lazarevski, Lingurovski.

United: Jevdjevic, Makris, Grigorakis, Canosa, Hasler (Harbis), Svigos, Tsoumerkas, Lenetis, Mihajlovic (Amiridis), Stefanidis, Tsonis.

Votes: 3- Slifkas (TZ), 2- Stefanidis (HU), 1- Tsoumerkas (HU).

MARINKOVIC SOARS FOR EAGLES

SPRINGVALE WE 2 SUNSHINE 0

By Milan Ninovic

Springvale White Eagles got themselves back on the winners' list with a 2-0 victory over Sunshine Georgies on Sunday afternoon.

Springvale were the better team, creating many opportunities, their first arriving when Neil Wallace headed wide after Vince De La Plaza set him up in the 15th minute.

Sunshine's Alfonso Opazo came close with an overhead attempt which narrowly flew over the crossbar after 52 minutes.

Springvale broke the deadlock when a Michael Burlak shot from 25 yards beat Steve Wardle in the Sunshine goal in the 64th minute.

Tom Komadina struck the woodwork six minutes before full time with a strike from outside the penalty box.

Zoltan Seci could have increased Springvale's lead when his lob ended up over the crossbar in the 86th minute.

The White Eagles increased their lead in the final minute when a Robert Marinkovic freekick beat Wardle all ends up.

White Eagles: Brian, Wallace, M. Marinkovic Kuzmanovic, Kitanovski, Nikolic, R.Marinkovic, M.Burlak, Calomino, Seci (M.De La Paza), V.De La Plaza.

Georgies: Wardle, Byrne, Kanesoulis, N.Trpcevski (Komadina), De Bono, Siveski, Opazo, Vassallo, Dragicevic, Krajacic, Magnacca.

Votes: 3- R.Marinkovic (SWE), 2-Kuzmanovic (SWE), 1-Opazo (SWE).

CRAZY JOHN'S MOBILEWORLD COMMUNICATIONS

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE DIV 1 ROUND 15 RESULTS

Werribee City	2	Kingston City	1
Westgate	4	Melton Reds	0
Westvale	4	Ringwood City	0
Springvale City	2	North Geelong Warriors	2
Lalor United	0	Western Suburbs	2
Doncaster Rovers	4	Northcote City	1
Richmond	2	Altona East	7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Westvale	15	13	1	1	59	9	40
Altona East	15	11	2	2	45	17	35
Western Suburbs	15	10	1	4	39	14	31
Werribee City	15	8	1	6	30	23	25
Doncaster Rovers	15	7	2	6	35	26	23
Kingston City	15	8	2	5	22	15	23
North Geelong Warriors	15	6	3	6	26	21	21
Richmond	15	6	3	6	25	25	21
Northcote City	15	6	2	7	30	37	20
Westgate	15	4	7	4	32	28	19
Springvale City	15	5	3	7	30	33	18
Lalor United	15	2	4	9	22	39	10
Ringwood City	15	3	1	11	21	40	10
Melton Reds	15	0	0	15	8	97	-3

ROUND 16 FIXTURES

Sunday July 5

Doncaster Rovers v Altona East
Richmond v Lalor United
Western Suburbs v North Geelong Warriors

PREMIER LEAGUE

LEADING SCORERS

21	Karl (St Albans Saints)
19	Becvinovski (Altona Magic)
17	Markovski (Preston Lions)
16	Gnjidic (Bulleen Inter Kings)
13	Lazarevski (Thomastown Zebras)
12	Emmanuele (Fawkner Blues)
11	Cuculevski (Thomastown Zebras)
	Genovesi (Green Gully Cavaliers)
	Corallo (South Dandenong)
10	R.Mezensof (South Dandenong)

PASCOE VALE SPORTSCENE/ ABSW AWARD LEADING VOTES

22	Cuculevski (Thomastown Zebras)
21	Magnacca (Sunshine Georgies)
20	Becvinovski (Altona Magic)
18	Emmanuele (Fawkner Blues)
	Karl (St Albans Saints)
	Rusmir (Altona Magic)
17	Gnjidic (Bulleen Inter Kings)
14	Fak (Altona Magic)
	Jolevski (Thomastown Zebras)
12	Emsovski (Preston Lions)
	Tricarico (Preston Lions)

PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Albans Saints	22	15	3	4	44	24	48
Altona Magic	22	14	2	6	39	20	44
Port Melbourne Sharks	22	12	3	7	42	27	39
Bulleen Inter Kings	22	10	9	3	32	19	39
Fawkner Blues	22	10	5	7	33	25	35
Green Gully Cavaliers	22	10	3	9	46	32	33
Preston Lions	22	8	4	10	39	35	28
Springvale White Eagles	22	8	4	10	26	35	28
Sunshine Georgies	22	8	4	10	23	33	28
Thomastown Zebras	22	8	3	11	37	41	27
Bentleigh Greens	22	6	7	9	26	37	25
South Dandenong	22	7	3	12	36	50	24
Moorabbin City	22	5	4	13	22	46	19
Heidelberg United	22	4	4	14	26	47	16

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Victorian Soccer Federation

Springvale City v Westvale
Ringwood City v Westgate
Melton Reds v Werribee City
Northcote City v Kingston City

DIVISION 2 ROUND 15 RESULTS

Maroondah Arrows	2	Old Scotch Waverley	1
East Richmond	1	Yarraville/Glen Eira	2
Cranbourne	3	Frankston Strikers	1
Altona City	0	Melbourne City	2
Broadmeadows City	1	Knox City	1
Oakleigh	2	Mooroolbark	0
Essendon Bruns. Royals	1	Regent Bulla	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oakleigh	15	11	2	2	40	12	35
Melbourne City	15	9	5	1	32	13	32
Yarraville/Glen Eira	15	10	2	3	30	14	32
Old Scotch Waverley	15	8	1	6	32	25	25
Knox City	15	7	3	5	30	20	24
East Richmond	15	5	6	4	13	11	21
Frankston Strikers	15	6	2	7	34	24	20
Maroondah Arrows	15	5	5	5	20	20	20
Altona City	15	5	5	5	18	24	20
Regent Bulla	15	6	2	7	22	31	20
Cranbourne	15	5	2	8	25	32	17
Essendon Bruns. Royals	15	5	1	9	18	33	16
Broadmeadows City	15	2	4	9	18	33	10
Mooroolbark	15	0	2	13	8	48	2

ROUND 16 FIXTURES
Saturday July 4

Oakleigh v Regent Bulla
Essendon Bruns. Royals v Broadmeadows City
Knox City v Altona City
Melbourne City v Cranbourne
Frankston Strikers v East Richmond
Yarraville/Glen Eira v Maroondah Arrows
Mooroolbark v Old Scotch Waverley

DIVISION 3 ROUND 15 RESULTS

Bell Park	1	Chelsea	2
Diamond Valley United	4	Pascoe Vale	2
South Springvale	2	Frankston Pines	2
Fitzroy City	2	South Werribee	0
Stonnington City	1	Keilor Park	0
Keysborough	1	Geelong	3
North Coburg United	2	Banyule City	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Geelong	15	13	1	1	47	12	40
Stonnington City	15	12	1	2	36	17	37
Diamond Valley United	15	11	3	1	38	12	36
Frankston Pines	15	8	4	3	33	20	28
South Springvale	15	6	3	6	23	21	21
Keilor Park	15	5	1	9	21	26	16
North Coburg United	15	4	4	7	17	24	16
Chelsea	15	5	1	9	18	35	16
Banyule City	15	4	3	8	22	25	15
Bell Park	15	5	3	7	22	27	15
Keysborough	15	4	2	9	22	35	14
South Werribee	15	5	2	8	24	45	14
Pascoe Vale	15	4	1	10	20	34	13
Fitzroy City	15	3	3	9	15	25	12

ROUND 16 FIXTURES
Saturday July 4

Keysborough v North Coburg United
Banyule City v Keilor Park
Stonnington City v Fitzroy City
South Werribee v South Springvale
Frankston Pines v Diamond Valley United
Pascoe Vale v Bell Park
Geelong v Chelsea

DIVISION 4 ROUND 15 RESULTS

Williamstown	1	Geelong Rangers	2
South Wantirna	3	Sunbury United	2
Sandringham City	4	South Caulfield	0
Seaford United	9	Clifton Hill United	1
Moreland City	5	Langwarrin	2
Nunawading City	1	Corio	0
Melton	3	Western Eagles	4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Moreland City	15	14	1	0	50	13	43
Langwarrin	15	10	1	4	35	22	31
South Wantirna	15	9	3	3	36	15	30
Williamstown	15	9	2	4	26	15	29
Seaford United	15	8	4	3	38	22	28
Geelong Rangers	15	8	1	6	23	23	25
Sandringham City	15	7	3	5	41	28	24
Corio	15	6	4	5	25	19	22
Sunbury United	15	5	4	6	20	19	19
Western Eagles	15	4	4	7	24	31	16
Melton	15	4	1	10	27	39	13
Clifton Hill United	15	4	0	11	18	51	12
Nunawading City	15	2	1	12	17	42	7
South Caulfield	15	0	1	14	9	50	1

ROUND 16 FIXTURES
Saturday July 4

Nunawading City v Melton
Western Eagles v Langwarrin
Moreland City v Seaford United
Clifton Hill United v Sandringham City
South Caulfield v South Wantirna
Sunbury United v Geelong Rangers
Corio v Williamstown

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIV 1 ROUND 15 RESULTS

Brandon Park	0	Monbulk	3
Lyndale United	4	North Sunshine Eagles	0
Mitcham United	3	Croxton Park	1
Glenroy	3	Springvale Condors	1
Templestowe Eagles v Endeavour United (game abandoned)			
Lalor		bye	
Riversdale		bye	

TABLE - Lyndale United 24, Croxton Park 23, Lalor 22, North Sunshine Eagles 21, Endeavour United 19, Mitcham United 16, Springvale Condors 16, Riversdale 15, Monbulk 14, Templestowe Eagles 13, Glenroy 13, Brandon Park 2.

ROUND 16 FIXTURES
Saturday July 4

Riversdale v Endeavour United
Templestowe Eagles v Glenroy
Lalor v Mitcham United
Croxton Park v Lyndale United
North Sunshine Eagles v Brandon Park
Springvale Condors - bye
Monbulk - bye

DIVISION 2 STH/EAST ROUND 12 RESULTS

Waverley Wanderers	3	Ashburton	0
Braeside United	1	Noble Park	1
Morwell Pegasus	6	Newborough/Yallourn	1
Dingley City	2	Old Camberwell Gram.	1
Dandenong	4	Doveton	2
Berwick City	0	Monash University	3

TABLE - Dandenong 30, Morwell Pegasus 28, Waverley Wanderers 25, Doveton 23, Newborough/Yallourn 18, Monash University 17, Noble Park 16, Dingley City 12, Braeside United 10, Berwick City 5, Ashburton 5, Old Camberwell Gram. 4.

ROUND 13 FIXTURES
Saturday July 4

Monash University v Dandenong
Doveton v Dingley City
Old Camberwell Gram. v Morwell Pegasus
Newborough/Yallourn v Braeside United
Waverley Wanderers v Berwick City
Ashburton v Noble Park

DIVISION 2 NTH/WEST/CENTRAL ROUND 12 RESULTS

Ballarat	2	Broadmeadows United	3
Elwood City	2	Brunswick City	1
South Yarra	1	Keon Park	4
Sydenham Park	3	Melbourne University	1
Meadow Park	3	Hoppers Crossing	3
Uni. of Melbourne	6	La Trobe University	0

TABLE - Sydenham Park 27, Brunswick City 25, Broadmeadows United 20, Ballarat 20, South Yarra 20, Uni. of Melbourne 18, Keon Park 15, Elwood City 15, Hoppers Crossing 14, Melbourne University 13, Meadow Park 8, La Trobe University 4.

ROUND 13 FIXTURES
Saturday July 4

La Trobe University v Meadow Park
Hoppers Crossing v Melbourne University
Keon Park v Sydenham Park
South Yarra v Elwood City
Uni. of Melbourne v Broadmeadows United
Brunswick City v Ballarat

DIVISION 3 STH/EAST/CENTRAL ROUND 12 RESULTS

North Caulfield	1	Collingwood City	1
Noble Park United	4	Caulfield United	1
Ivanhoe United	0	Dandenong Inter	2
Flemington Falcons	2	Endeavour Hills	2
Clayton	10	Parkmore	1
Thornbury United	1	Heatherton United	2

TABLE - Dandenong Inter 28, Clayton 26, Noble Park United 26, Heatherton United 26, Caulfield United 17, Endeavour Hills 16, North Caulfield 16, Felmington Falcons 15, Thornbury United 10, Collingwood City 9, Ivanhoe United 8, Parkmore 0.

ROUND 13 FIXTURES
Sunday July 5

Heatherton United v Clayton
Parkmore v Flemington Falcons
Endeavour Hills v Ivanhoe United
Dandenong Inter v Noble Park United
Collingwood City v Thornbury United
Caulfield United v North Caulfield

DIVISION 3 NTH/WEST ROUND 12 RESULTS

Whittlesea United	2	Darebin United	2
West Preston	0	Watsonia Heights	0
North Glenroy	4	Brimbank	1
Somerton City	1	North Reservoir	2
Keilor United	4	Northern United	5
Mill Park		bye	

TABLE - Mill Park 25, Somerton City 20, Darebin United 19, Northern United 19, North Reservoir 15, North Glenroy 14, West Preston 12, Keilor United 10, Brimbank 9, Watsonia Heights 7, Whittlesea United 5.

ROUND 13 FIXTURES
Sunday July 5

Northern United v Somerton City
North Reservoir v Brimbank
West Preston v North Glenroy
Watsonia Heights v Whittlesea United
Darebin United v Mill Park
Keilor United - bye

"Healthy Diet — Try It"

PREMIER LEAGUE RESULTS

Round 21

Green Gully Cavaliers 9 (Genovesi 3, Donev 3, Osman, Papadopoulos, Neceski) - Moorabbin City 0

Round 22

South Dandenong 3 (Mezensof 2, Corallo) - Fawkner Blues 2 (Deak, K.Simsek)
Altona Magic 2 (Micevski, Becvinovski) - Preston Lions 1 (Markovski)
Thomastown Zebras 1 (Lazarevski) - Heidelberg United 2 (Mihajlovic, Stefanidis)
Port Melbourne Sharks 2 (Allsopp 2) - Green Gully Cavaliers 3 (Donev, Palamaras (og), Kovacevic)
Moorabbin City 0 - St Albans Saints 1 (Karl)
Bulleen Inter Kings 3 (Gnjidic 2, Sherifovski) - Bentleigh Greens 1 (Karapatsos)
Springvale White Eagles 2 (Burlak, R.Marinkovic) - Sunshine Georgies 0

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES

Round 23

Sunday July 5

Sunshine Georgies v South Dandenong - Chaplin Reserve - kick off 3.00pm
Heidelberg United v Springvale White Eagles - Olympic Village - kick off 3.00pm
Fawkner Blues v Bulleen Inter Kings - C.B. Smith Reserve - kick off 3.00pm
Bentleigh Greens v Altona Magic - Kingston Heath Soccer Complex - kick off 3.00pm
Preston Lions v Moorabbin City - Goodyear Stadium - kick off 3.00pm
St Albans Saints v Port Melbourne Sharks - Churchill Reserve - kick off 3.00pmSpringvale White Eagles v Sunshine Georgies - Serbian Sports Centre - kick off 3.00pm

Monday July 6

Green Gully Cavaliers v Thomastown Zebras - Green Gully Reserve - kick off 8.15pm

Oivind Eekland & Rose Ar

I'm go to the World Cup

Someone always tries to out do the bride

Confetti filled the air

Bob, we know you are sleeping behind those glasses!

Even uncle Gustav came after his visit to the hospital

Cousin Charles has done well for himself

The buck's party was a blast!

Typically, the groom's sisters drank too much

The fathers of the bride and groom respectively

Someone always drinks too much and things start getting smashed

The three bridesmaids were hot!!!

gela De Souza

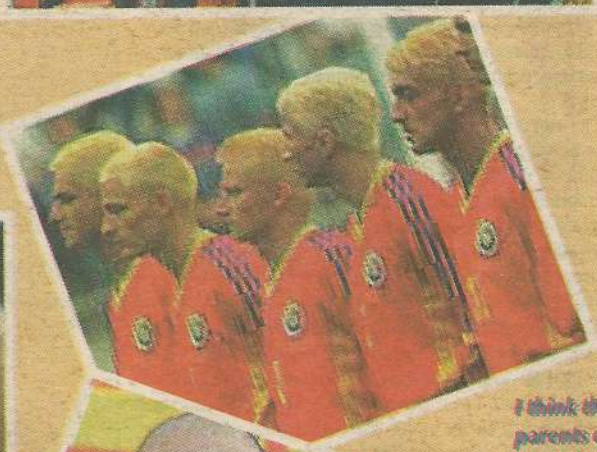
ng

The best man met someone special at the party afterwards

Some of the out of town guests did a bit of sight-seeing

Norway player Eekland avoided the controversy of Norway's 2-1 win over Brazil and made his own love match with Brazilian Angela

The mothers of the groom and bride respectively



The stripper was the night's highlight

I think the parents of the bride's cousins were brother and sister

The wedding singer

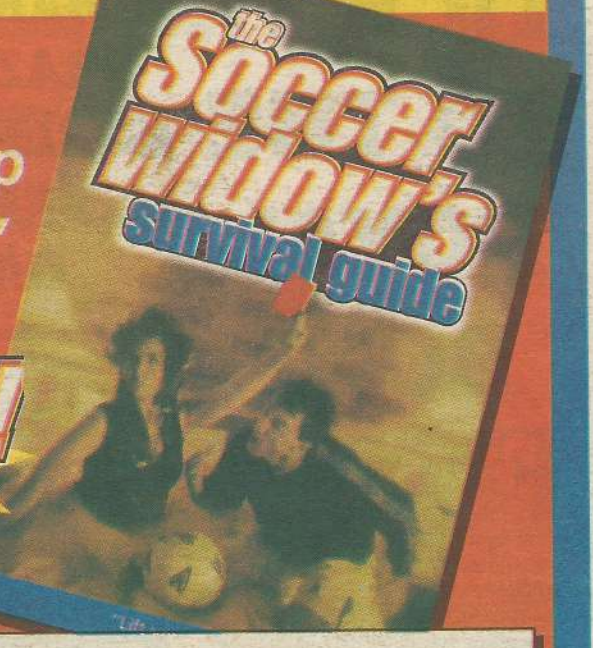
and I'm gonna get married!

Some of the groom's work mates

Even the limo driver's joined in...

At Last!

"World Cup Winner!"



At Last!

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SOCCER WOMAN

WITH JANENE MAR

AUSSIE WOMEN MOVE INTO TOP GEAR

Tomorrow, Wednesday 1 July, marks the beginning of a new era for women's soccer in Australia with the commencement of its full-time scholarship program at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra. Amidst all the hype surrounding the men's World Cup in France, Australia's Women's Soccer Team gets down to serious preparations for a World Cup mission of its own.

The twenty members of the National OAP Squad have now arrived in Canberra - together for centralised training in readiness for the 1999 World Cup and 2000 Olympic Games. Whereas the majority of other AIS programs are utilised to foster developing talent in that sport, women's soccer can boast its best - those athletes at present most likely to push for Olympic team selection.

The goodbyes have been made, the bags unpacked, and the new winter woolleys fill the set of drawers. It will be just like starting your first day at school. National Coach Greg Brown and Assistant National Coach Chris Tanzey along with other AIS specialist personnel will help make the transition as smooth as possible.

Now the business begins.

There are just 805 training days from tomorrow until kickoff of the Sydney 2000 Olympic football tournament.

The range of athletes is varied, each with different strengths, characteristics, age, and level of experience. But in essence, the twenty enter the scholarship program all on equal footing, all competing for selection, all under constant scrutiny and assessment. It will be fascinating to see how each responds, how the process unfolds.

With the advent of the AIS program, Australia becomes the only country in the world with a full-time residential training program for its National Team. How we best take advantage of this opportunity is up to us.

Sonia Gegenhuber ... one of the top twenty players with big ambitions for Aussie Soccer.

THE MAGNIFICENT TWENTY

TRACI BARTLETT	JULIE MURRAY
SHARON BLACK	JOANNE PETERS
JOANNE BUTLAND	KIM REVELL
LISA CASAGRANDE	CHERYL SALISBURY
SARAH COOPER	BRIDGETTE STARR
BRYONY DUUS	KRISTYN SWAFFER
ALICIA FERGUSON	ANISSA TANN-DARBY
SONIA GEGENHUBER	AMY TAYLOR
BELINDA KITCHING	NATALIE THOMAS
GEORGETTE LEAKE	SHELLEY YOUMAN

HOLD THE FRONT PAGE

compiled by ABSW

PSST.... TICKET TO THE ROYAL BOX?

Fifty people who bought black-market tickets for Friday's World Cup match between England and Colombia ended up sitting in the VIP box near Britain's heir to the throne Prince Charles, police said.

Police said a World Cup organising committee (CFO) volunteer working at the Lens office was in custody on Saturday, accused of selling the tickets on the black market.

World Cup officials expressed astonishment at the match on Friday when the ticket-holders — obviously not VIPs — took their seats near Prince Charles and his younger son, Prince Harry.

The ticket-holders, English and Colombian supporters who did not know they had been sold tickets for the VIP box, were not thought to have been a security threat but organisers in the VIP box demanded an inquiry.

England won and there was no trouble in the stadium, even in the VIP section, with its uninvited guests.

NORWAY PLAYER MARRIES BRAZILIAN GIRLFRIEND BEFORE GAME

So now we know why Norway beat Brazil! Nowegian player Oivind Eekland and his Brazilian girlfriend Rose Angela De Souza tied the knot before the game. We wish the couple all the very best for a Soccer-filled happy future. See centre pages for more pics.

ISAAC TEARS UP HIS DAD'S DREAM

It is great to encourage kids to be creative. Last week Isaac Boundy, 4, proudly showed his mother Helen the latest finished article, however she noticed that some of the ingredients looked strangely familiar.

It is an equation which will be recognised in many households: four-year-old with artistic leanings plus pair of scissors equals destruction on a grand scale.

And his father's dream of attending England's final Group G match in Lens was, literally, in tatters.

Mr Boundy, 41, who lives in England, said: "Our house is World Cup-mad and I'd had my £25 ticket for Friday's match for weeks. Isaac is quite artistic and he was doing really well with his collage."

However, Mr Boundy could not bring himself to punish his step-son.

"When Isaac looked up at me and proudly showed off his work, I just didn't have the heart to get angry with him.

"He knew something was wrong and that he'd upset me, because I was so quiet."

However, luckily for Isaac, the tale has a happy ending. According to Sandrine Nede at the World Cup ticket office, the procedure for damaged tickets is simple.

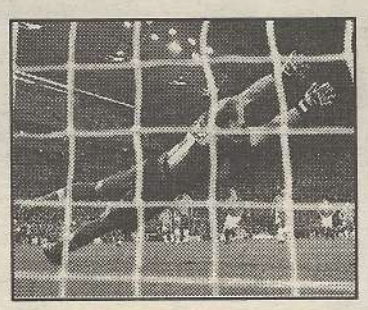
"Ticket holders just need to call us giving their client number and their name and we make a demand for duplication and the ticket is exchanged."

KEEPER? YOU MUST BE MAD...

If it is true that you have to be mad to be a keeper, then this probably confirms it. French President Jacques Chirac, who has scored a few spectacular political own-goals in his time (Nuclear testing in the Pacific. Hello), said that if he were a soccer player he would be a goalkeeper.

"The goalkeepers ... have great qualities of speed, finesse and intelligence. They are always on their guard and then they are the last line of defence in moments of difficulty," Chirac said in a television interview after watching France beat Denmark 2-1.

Beautifully said Jacques, but have if you have been trampled on by an oncoming striker? Like to see what you think after that?



NORWAY PLAY 'ANTI-FOOTBALL'

Brazil coach Mario Zagallo accused Norway of playing "anti-football" after his world champions lost to the Scandinavians in the second time in little over a year on Tuesday.

The veteran coach had praised Morocco's style last week but the irony of Brazil's 2-1 defeat, which put Norway through at the expense of a team he admires, appeared lost on him.

"What they (Norway) play is anti-football," said Zagallo, who has been locked in a war of words with his Norwegian counterpart Egil Olsen since the world champions lost a friendly 4-2 in Oslo just over a year ago.

ABSW does not know what this Zagallo character is on about? And what does he know about football anyway?

We love watching Norway play. We could watch them all day if we could. Thank God for Norway. Vive La Norway! The saviour of world soccer, forget Samba Soccer, Fjord Football is here, and here to stay.

FRANCE 98
MATCH REPORTS
Compiled by ABSW

PRECIADO'S PRECIOUS WINNER FOR COLOMBIA

Substitute Leider Preciado scored an 82nd-minute winner to give Colombia a 1-0 victory over Tunisia last week in Montpellier.

Preciado seized on a pass from the previously ineffective Carlos Valderrama, held off strong challenge from Jose Clayton and slotted home from close range to trigger wild celebrations by coach Hernan Gomez.

Gomez was under great pressure following his decision to send home striker Faustino Asprilla for criticising team tactics after last week's opening 1-0 defeat by Romania.

Without Asprilla, the Colombian attack was erratic until Gomez threw caution to the winds after 57 minutes and put on 21-year-old Preciado and fellow striker Victor Aristizabal, left out of the starting team after a poor game against Romania.

In an entertaining but scrappy game with an unusually high 43 shots at goal, Preciado saved Gomez's blushes with the one strike that counted.

"I am very happy to repay the confidence that Gomez showed in me when he brought me on," said Preciado. "It was a very important goal." Gomez has already said he will step down after the tournament because of heavy criticism back home in Tunisia.

"We are disappointed. We are bitter," said Tunisian coach Henryk Kasperczak. "We played the ball well, what was lacking was our finishing." Despite a fierce sun, the pace rarely relented as both sides set out with attack in mind, only for brilliant goalkeeping and poor shooting to keep the game goalless.

Group G: Montpellier

COLOMBIA	1
TUNISIA	0

Anthony de Avila as Colombia made the early running.

But Tunisia, toothless in defeat against England a week ago, showed that they too had remembered how to attack.

Colombia keeper Farid Mondragon got down well to save Mehdi Ben Slimane's header at the near post and just beat Adel Sellimi to Skander Souayah's threaded through-ball.

One more time sunshine ...

Tunisia keeper Chokri El Ouaer superbly tipped over Wilmer Cabrera's goal-bound header in the 22nd minute and twice had to race from his line to foil lively striker

Valderrama and Co. celebrate the decisive goal.

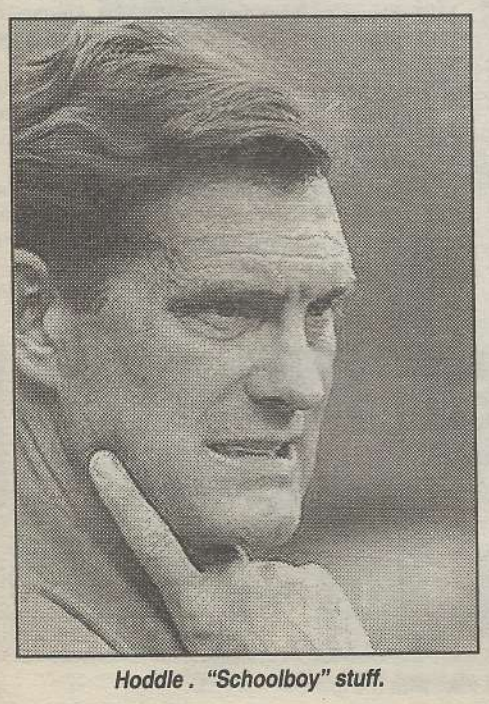
ROMANIANS RUN RINGS ROUND ENGLAND

Romania secured their place in the second round of the World Cup finals on Monday of last week with a last-minute 2-1 victory over England in a thrilling World Cup Group G clash.

A goal in the 90th minute by Dan Petrescu, the attacking wing-back signed by England coach Glenn Hoddle when he was manager of Chelsea, clinched Romania their victory and maintained their fine recent World Cup record.

Group G: Toulouse

ROMANIA	2
ENGLAND	1



Hoddle . "Schoolboy" stuff.

Chasing a long pass into the left side of the penalty area, he held off a challenge from his Chelsea club mate Graeme Le Saux and then steered a low shot between the legs of advancing goalkeeper David Seaman.

The goal - his 12th for his country - came at the end of a dramatic, roller-coaster of a match which produced two goals in the final six minutes and almost saw England draw level again with seconds remaining.

After Petrescu had scored, England substitute Michael Owen, who had scrambled an equaliser six minutes earlier following Viorel Moldovan's 47th minute opener, hit the post and then beat the ground with his fists.

His frustration was felt throughout the England side, who refused to give up until the final whistle.

When it did go, England were crestfallen and Romania exultant. Their players celebrated by diving on the grass in front of their fans while Hoddle complained that "schoolboy" defensive errors had cost his team the match.

"It was going to be a stalemate, a bit like a chess game, until we gave away those two terrible goals," he said. "Defensively, they were dreadful goals to concede. At this level, if you defend like that, you get punished."

The result ensured Romania, whose rotating players often left England chasing shadows, reached the second round for the third successive finals. It also brought long-awaited revenge for their 1-0 defeat by England in Mexico in 1970 in their only previous World Cup finals meeting.

England played a full part in the drama, but Romania demonstrated superior individual technique and more inventive tactics.

"In the second half we saw a high-quality game from both sides but our technical ability and tactical intelligence made the difference," Romania coach Anghel Iordanescu said.

Romania also had, in veteran midfielder Gheorghe Hagi and striker Adrian Ilie, the two most menacing and skilful players on the pitch. But Owen, in only 16 minutes, showed he had the potential to be a match-winner for England.

Roared on by their army of supporters, England had the best of the first half during which a hooked shot by Teddy Sheringham bounced wide and Ilie hit the bar.

But after losing defensive midfielder Paul Ince with a twisted ankle after 32 minutes, they conceded the initiative. His replacement, David Beckham, was unable to subdue Hagi while Paul Scholes was closely marked by Constantin Galca.

Romania took control and the lead early in the second half when Hagi flicked on a throw-in for Moldovan, who also plays in England at Coventry City, to evade Tony Adams easily and fire home his 13th goal for his country.

It seemed to be enough when a cross-shot by Darren Anderton bounced agonisingly wide for England. But Owen's introduction for Sheringham revitalised their attack and he rammed the ball home in a scramble following an 83rd minute cross by Alan Shearer to spark the final drama.

A great moment for Michael Owen.

FRANCE 98
MATCH REPORTS
Compiled by ABSW

MOROCCANS WIN BUT BOW OUT WITH BRAVE SCOTLAND

Morocco beat Scotland 3-0 on last week but their fine effort was in vain as Norway and Brazil qualified for the second round.

Morocco took the lead in the 22nd minute through Salaheddine Bassir, against the flow of play, then stunned the Scots with a second goal two minutes after halftime.

It was always going to be an uphill battle after that, and when midfielder Craig Burley was sent off in the 54th minute for a tackle from behind, their chance of a comeback had gone.

Weir and Hadda in action in Saint Etienne.

Group A: St Etienne

MOROCCO	3
SCOTLAND	0

The first goal came from a long ball which caught the Scotland defence flat-footed and striker Bassir lashed home a left-foot shot.

Scotland tried to respond with striker Gordon Durie probing both down the left and through the middle but to no avail.

Morocco's keeper Driss Benzekri looked less than secure on crosses and Scotland attempted to get the ball down the flanks so they could swing it into the goal area.

Bassir strikes past Leighton

The Scots did pressure the Moroccans in the run-up to halftime with Kevin Gallacher going close with a header, but they could not get back on level terms.

Then just two minutes into the second half Morocco's Abdeljalil Hadda broke down the left flank outpacing David Weir and he drove in a high shot. Scotland keeper Leighton got both his hands to the ball but failed to stop it looping over his head and across the line.

Moroccan man mountain of celebration.

Morocco's fans behind Leighton's goal went into a dance of delight, which turned to tears after the whistle when they learned Norway had beaten Brazil and robbed them of a place in the second round.

Bassir added a third goal in the 84th minute when he tricked his way past two Scottish defenders.

So for both sides the France 98 party is now over. Neither side should be discouraged by their performances, with Morocco in particular showing some real promise for the future.

VIERI: BOSSLEY PARK BOMBER

It must have been a wild night at Club Marconi last Tuesday night. Former Marconi junior Christian Vieri scored again for Italy as they clinched a place in the last 16 after goals from him, his fourth of the World Cup, and substitute Roberto Baggio, which gave them a 2-1 win over Austria.

A 49th minute header from Vieri and a last-minute tap-in from Baggio ensured the Italians top place in Group B and a rendezvous with the runners-up from group A in Norway.

Baggio celebrates goal two.

Group B: Saint-Denis

ITALY	2
AUSTRIA	1

For the third straight match Austria scored in injury time, but Andy Herzog's penalty, officially timed at 91 minutes, was too late to save them from defeat and elimination. Chile, who drew 1-1 with Cameroon, qualified as runners-up in Group B.

"The result was amply deserved, even though we made a lot of chances and did not take them," Italian coach Cesare Maldini said.

"I am pleased with the way we played and over the three matches we deserve to qualify for the next round." Italy have qualified for the second round in every finals since 1974.

Austria tried to snuff out the Italian frontline with some fearsome tackling, especially in the first half, but Italy always looked the more inventive and technically superior team.

Austrian coach Herbert Prohaska said: "The Italians played intelligently and they waited for their moment to strike. They took their chances well."

Apart from one or two flashes of class from Ivica Vastic and Dietmar Kuhbauer, Austria appeared content just to disrupt the flow of the Italians. But they were punished by two piercing thrusts through the heart of their defence.

The first goal came after 49 minutes following a foul on Alessandro Del Piero by Peter Schoettel, who was lucky to stay on the pitch after being booked in the last minute of the first half for flattening Vieri.

Del Piero took the free kick himself and the bustling Atletico Madrid striker slipped his marker to head the ball past Michael Konsel. The goal maintained his record of scoring in every match.

Austria, forced to start concentrating on their own game, began to put Italy under some pressure, and were only denied an equaliser by an outstanding 66th minute double-save from Gianluca Pagliuca from Heimo Pfeifenbeger.

Austria had saved themselves from defeat in their opening two matches by scoring injury-time equalisers and with Italy missing a succession of chances in the second half, Austria always appeared in with a chance of saving the game.

Yet it was Italy who netted again.

Filippo Inzaghi — who came on for Vieri after an hour — broke free on the right hand side of the defence and feinted to create space for himself.

Instead he played a perfect square ball across the goal, leaving Baggio the simplest of tap-ins from a metre out.

Baggio had replaced del Piero in the 73rd minute.

To their credit, Austria continued to press forward and gained a consolation goal at the death when Herzog blasted home an injury-time penalty after Alessandro Costacurta had sent Hannes Reinmayer tumbling in the box.

The victory maintained Italy's record of not having lost to Austria in 12 matches since 1960 — and also of beating them in every World Cup match they have played.

But the Italians had some worrying news after the game when it was revealed that defender Alessandro Nesta twisted ligaments in his right leg, after being taken off in the fourth minute.

Still, in Vieri they have a goalscorer of the highest order. Imagine if he was a Socceroo??

That's our boy ... Christian Vieri with the grateful Azzurri.

FRANCE 98
MATCH REPORTS
Compiled by ABSW

FLO UPSETS BRAZIL'S RYTHYM

Kjetil Rekdal converted an 89th-minute penalty kick as Norway stunningly rallied with two goals in the final seven minutes to move into the second round last week with a stunning 2-1 victory over holders Brazil.

Trailing 1-0 and looking like it was headed out after the first round, Tore Andre Flo gave Norway hope with a remarkable individual effort in the 83rd minute. Flo ran onto a long pass, one-touched it to the middle of the penalty area and beat goalkeeper Taffarel with a strike from 12 yards.

With Morocco beating Scotland 3-0 in Saint-Etienne and sure to advance from Group A with a Brazil victory or draw, American referee Esse Baharmast called Junior Baiano for a handball as he battled with Flo for position on a high ball.

Rekdal firmly stuck his penalty kick into the lower left side of the net and Norway reached the second round of the World Cup for the first time in three tries.

Baiano and Flo

Group A: Marseille

NORWAY	2
BRAZIL	1

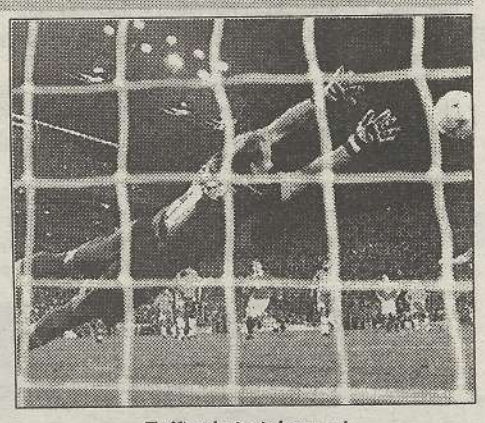
Flying High ... Bebeto scores for Brazil but it was the Norwegians who finished on a high.

The Norwegian reserves sprinted onto the field to hug and contratulate their teammates.

Brazil controlled possession throughout and finally looked like the winner when Bebeto converted Denilson's cross with a header in the 78th minute.

Denilson fell, but still managed to keep possession, spin away from Norwegian defender Berg Henning and strike a left-footed cross chest high across the penalty area. Streaking through, Bebeto put his head onto the ball and directed it into the middle of the net.

Brazil already had qualified for the second round, assured of winning Group A and a round of 16 meeting with Chile.



Taffarel stretches out.

Ronaldo does the Samba.

36 YEAR DREAM COMES TRUE

And we thought we have been waiting a long time for the Socceroos to do something on the international stage. Chile, withstanding a furious second-half challenge, qualified for the World Cup's second round for the first time in 36 years by drawing with Cameroon 1-1 on Tuesday last week.

But the only reason the Chileans, who had three straight ties, advanced to a second-round matchup with Brazil was a questionable call by the referee, who disallowed a Cameroon goal because of a foul that didn't appear to happen.

Margas and Songo'o in an aerial duel.

Group B: Nantes

CHILE	1
CAMEROON	1

"I can accept a lot of things, but I can't accept that one," Cameroon coach Claude Le Roy said. "I'm sorry we were eliminated, especially on a decision that was an incompetent one."

The tie, coupled with Italy's 2-1 victory over Austria, left Italy atop Group B and Chile in second place. Cameroon, a surprise quarter-finalist in 1990, became a first-round loser for the second straight time.

"We can't really accept this unfair decision," Salomon Olembe said. "The referee will not be welcome in Cameroon if he wanted to spend a holiday there."

Before a colorful and overwhelmingly Chilean crowd at the Stade de la Beaujoire, Jose Sierra put Chile ahead with a 30-yard free kick in the 21st minute that went over a five-man defensive wall and curled into the top right corner of the net.

Cameroon, needing a victory to advance, played a man short after Rigobert Song was ejected in the 52nd minute for a flagrant elbow on star forward Marcelo Salas, then came back to tie the score four minutes later when Patrick Mboma outleaped Pedro Reyes and beat goalkeeper Nelson Tapia with a header from 8 yards out.

Veteran Francois Omam Biyick appeared to give Cameroon the lead two minutes later after Mboma beat Ronaldo Fuentes on a header and flicked the ball ahead.

But Biyick's apparent goal was disallowed when Hungarian referee Laszlo Vagner blew the whistle and indicatd that Mboma pushed Fuentes on the header. Replays showed contact but no clear foul.

"They said I committed the foul, but I didn't commit a foul," Mboma said. "I can't believe it. It was an unjust decision. It was very unjust."

Cameroon officials screamed at Vagner as he walked off the field, and Le Roy launched into repeated verbal attacks on FIFA president Sepp Blatter, who was at the game. Last week, FIFA told referees to clamp down and call more red cards, telling them to eject players for any tackle from behind.

Le Roy criticized Blatter for his lack of football knowledge, saying he should turn over decisions about playing the game to Michel Platini, a former French star and Blatter supporter who heads the French World Cup organizers.

"If this is what football is all about, I hope Mr. Blatter was watching," Le Roy said. "Perhaps he should stick to administrative tasks."

Cameroon kept pressing and the finish made for heart-stopping moments on the bench for Chile, which blew late leads in both its previous games against Italy and Austria.

"We were afraid in the last few minutes that things would turn against us as they did in the other two matches," Chile coach Nelson Acosta said.

The Chileans last advanced in 1962, when they were host of the tournament and finished third. Chile was banned from the last World Cup after goalkeeper Roberto Rojas faked an injury during a 1989 qualifer.

"Chile has qualified after many years of sacrifice," Salas said. "You have to go through hardships. It really is a dream for us."

'The Matador' Marcelo Salas

FRANCE 98
MATCH REPORTS
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GOALS GALORE ... BUT NO SPANISH JOY

Spain crushed Bulgaria 6-1 on Wednesday but their sparkling show could not save them from a shock early World Cup exit. Spain and 1994 semi-finalists Bulgaria can both pack their bags, their World Cup dreams over for another four years.

Spain, highly regarded coming into the tournament, paid the price for their 3-2 defeat by Nigeria and 0-0 draw with Paraguay in earlier games. It was the first time since 1978 that Spain had fallen at the first hurdle.

Spanish coach Javier Clemente sportingly paid tribute to Paraguay.

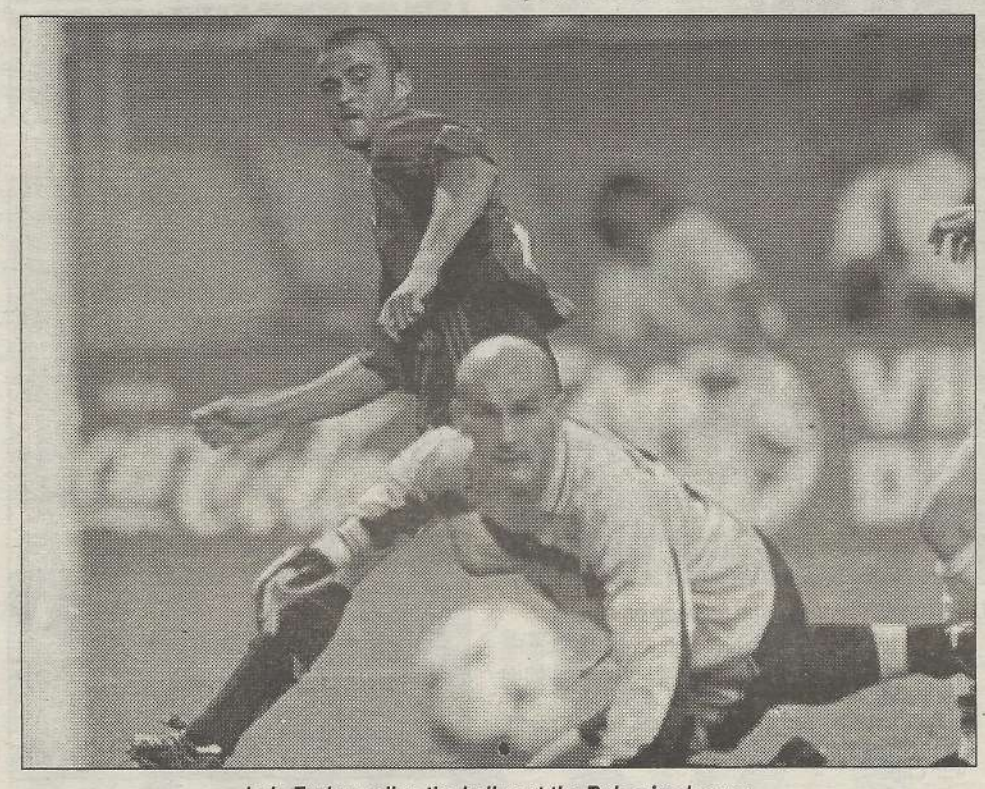
"You have to congratulate Paraguay. I feel sad but life goes on," he said. "I think our pride was evident in these three games. For better or worse, I think the team showed its unity."

Bulgarian coach Hristo Bonev said he was quitting after what he admitted had been a disappointing campaign. "I realise we disappointed all our supporters. It was a disappointing tournament for us, we were the weakest team in our group," he said.

He criticised his players for a lack of fight against Spain. "It looked like we had already given up," he said.

Group D: Lens

SPAIN	6
BULGARIA	1



Luis Enrique slips the ball past the Bulgarian keeper.

Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov, joint top scorer in the 1994 tournament, was substituted at halftime. Stoichkov and team mate Lyuboslav Penev had been fined this week for taking an unauthorised break from the team camp.

News of Paraguay's lead had reached the players and the Spaniards did not even bother to celebrate after each of their three goals in the last 10 minutes.

Seeking the win they hoped would keep their hopes alive, Spain swept into a 2-0 lead within 18 minutes.

Fernando Hierro stroked home a penalty in the sixth minute after Bulgarian defender Ivailo Yordanov had brought down midfielder Luis Enrique as he weaved his way into the penalty box.

They doubled their lead 12 minutes later through the skilful Luis Enrique, who latched on to a Joseba Etxeberria cross and cut in from the right to score with a close-range shot which bounced off goalkeeper Zdravko Zdravkov.

Spain went three goals ahead in the 53rd minute when striker Fernando Morientes finished off a sweeping move.

Emil Kostadinov, another veteran of Bulgaria's 1994 campaign, gave his team some hope when he swivelled and fired in a shot off the post in the 57th minute. It was Bulgaria's first and only goal in this year's competition.

Bulgaria threw men forward towards the end and Spain cashed in. Morientes grabbed his second in the 81st minute and substitute Kiko added two more in the closing minutes.

Kiko's first came from a header which hit the bar, goalkeeper Zdravkov and a defender before dropping into the net. Kiko completed the futile rout with almost the last kick of the match.

Stoichkov: Subbed at halftime.

DIFFERENCE IS PETIT

Denmark celebrated their passage into the last 16 of the World Cup despite a 2-1 defeat by unbeaten Group C winners France.

The host country, cheered on by President Jacques Chirac and fielding an experimental side, deserved their third successive win and will meet the runners-up in Group D in Lens on Sunday. Denmark face Nigeria, Group D winners, in Paris the same day.

Group C: Lyon

FRANCE	2
DENMARK	1

Larsen about to tackle a French player's head!

In a match which France dominated, the sides exchanged penalties in the first half before Arsenal midfielder Emmanuel Petit scored the winner in the 56th minute.

"I think we are doing well and we will get better," said French coach Aime Jacquet. "I am very happy and proud of the team as we can say we had three good matches and played with a lot of determination."

Coach Bo Johansson admitted Denmark had been beaten by a better side. But his smile, and the joyous celebrations among his players and the team's fans, showed defeat mattered little now that Denmark had qualified.

"It is great that we will move on to the second round. We've played so hard to achieve that aim. It would have been a terrible disappointment not to have gone on," Johansson said.

The new-look French side, featuring only three players who started the game against Saudi Arabia, took the lead from a penalty in the 13th minute scored by Youri Djorkaeff, who filled in so well for Zinedine Zidane that the suspended playmaker was hardly missed.

Italian referee Pierluigi Collina awarded the spot kick when Jes Hoegh felled striker David Trezeguet in the area.

Djorkaeff squeezed the ball into the net although goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel, playing a record 103rd game for Denmark, got his hand to the ball after choosing the right side.

The host nation, which had already qualified after winning its first two games, conceded its first goal of the tournament when Denmark equalised through Michael Laudrup, also with a penalty, three minutes from half-time.

Vincent Candela brought down Martin Joergensen in the area after a quickly taken free kick in the 42nd minute. Captain Laudrup left Fabien Barthez with no chance from the spot.

But Emmanuel Petit wrapped up France's third successive win with a low shot from the edge of the area through a scrum of players in the 56th minute.

Jacquet, fearing a second booking for Petit which would have ruled him out of the second round game, substituted the pony-tailed midfielder nine minutes after his goal.

The Danes appeared content with the 1-2 scoreline, as it was clear South Africa were not going to score the hatful of goals they needed against Saudi Arabia to qualify, and retreated into their own half in the last half hour.

But they nearly squared the match in injury time against the run of play when Barthez lost control of a Stig Tofting free kick and only just managed to keep the ball out as he stood behind the goalline.

"We had to struggle hard. We had good moments in attack, but mostly we had to defend. We will have to change this against Nigeria," Johansson said.

"We know quite a lot about Nigeria, they're a team that suits us well. They are the favourites. We are the underdogs," he said.

The Danes needed a draw to set up a second round clash with Olympic champions Nigeria without having to rely on the outcome of the other group game between South Africa and Saudi Arabia.

But the Africans, who had a mathematical chance of overtaking the Danes on goal difference if they beat Saudi Arabia handsomely, managed only a 2-2 draw.

Denmark also reached the second round in their only previous finals appearance in 1986 where they earnt the nickname the 'Dashing Danes'. These days it is more the case of the 'Dour Danes'.

FRANCE 98
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RELAXED EAGLES FAIL TO LIFT OFF

Paraguay striker Miguel Benitez scored a superb goal from 20 metres out on Wednesday last to help beat a weakened Nigerian team 3-1 and earn a second round World Cup tie against hosts France.

The turning point of their final Group D game came in the 59th minute when the Espanyol star took one touch to control the ball before smacking it home via the underside of the bar to give his side a crucial 2-1 lead over the Super Eagles.

With the Nigerians quickly losing interest, striker Jose Cardozo made sure of the win in the 86th minute when he beat the offside trap eight metres out and steered the ball past the flailing arms of goalkeeper Peter Rufai from a narrow angle.

Nigeria had made seven changes in their side and Rufai told reporters: "The coach told us to go out and enjoy ourselves, to take the game easy. Although we lost we still feel great and we are in great shape."

Group D: Toulouse

PARAGUAY	3
NIGERIA	1

Brizuela gets spectacular against Nigeria.

The win was just reward for the South Americans who outfought a Nigerian side, which had already qualified, to reach the next stage for only the second time in their history.

Benitez scores.

"We are very happy. This is a real celebration. We lived through many emotions on the bench," Paraguay coach Paolo Cesar Carpeggiani told reporters.

"It was a difficult match but we had lots of chances. We were very dynamic and showed what a great defence we have. We deserved to win," he said.

Benitez, who had a running battle with Espanyol last season after being dropped from the side, said Paraguay's team spirit had lifted them to victory.

"It was an incredible achievement to win. It's an accomplishment for the entire country and it's a result of all the hard work we've done over the past two years of preparation," he said.

The Nigerians paid an early price for ringing the changes in their line-up by conceding the fastest goal in the tournament when defender Celso Ayala powerfully headed a free kick past Rufai in the very first minute as the defence stood and watched.

But the talented Africans stepped up a gear and deservedly equalised in the 10th minute when Wilson Oruma escaped the Paraguayan defence to slide home a cross from five metres out.

Nigeria continued to dominate in the first half and flamboyant Paraguay goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert was forced to make three excellent saves in quick succession.

The Africans did very little in the second half but Nigeria coach Bora Milutinovic afterwards defended his decision to make so many changes.

"We had one player suspended, three players who were one card away from suspension and two injured players," said the coach, whose team meets Denmark in a second round match on Sunday.

"I played some of the other members of the squad to see what they were like. We have a very important game on Sunday and I am just happy we won this group," he said.

"We've qualified!!"

'WHITE WITCHDOCTOR' SLAMS BAFANAS

It's all over for the Bafana Bafana. South Africa were knocked out of their first World Cup on Wednesday, despite snatching a 2-2 draw with already eliminated Saudi Arabia, thanks to an injury-time spot kick in a game of three penalties.

Coach Philippe Troussier was hard on his players, who had needed to win to have any chance of overtaking Denmark for the second last-16 place behind France from Group C. He accused them of lacking team spirit and the will to win.

Shaun Bartlett raised South African hopes early on with a sweet left-foot drive from a tight angle in the 19th minute, latching on to a long ball from the deep.

Group C: Bordeaux

SOUTH AFRICA	2
SAUDI ARABIA	2

But Sami Al-Jaber made it 1-1 with a penalty on halftime and the Saudis took the lead with 17 minutes to go when veteran captain Youssef Al-Thyniyan converted their second spot-kick.

South Africa salvaged some pride when they were awarded the third penalty of the game in the last minute for a foul on substitute Jerry Sikhosana. Bartlett took the kick to collect his second goal and square a match in which the Bafana Bafana dominated physically but could not quell the nimble Saudis.

Bartlett shoots past an outstretched leg of a Saudi defender.

Frenchman Trousssier, who expelled two players from the squad during the tournament for sneaking out to a night-club, accused his side of self-destructing. They go home with two points after an earlier 1-1 draw with Denmark. The Danes lost 2-1 to France on Wednesday but beat Saudi Arabia 1-0.

"It's not a bad World Cup...(but) we expected more," said Troussier, who said he now planned to take a rest from soccer.

"I have never really felt we were in this project as a group. Without that will to win you don't get far in the World Cup," added the trainer known as the "white witchdoctor" for his track record in Africa.

South Africa, using their physical power to force past the lighter Saudis, had much the better of the first half.

Ajax Amsterdam's Benedict McCarthy, the scorer against the Danes, had several good chances stopped by keeper Mohammed Al-Deayea or blocked by a sometimes stretched but always determined Saudi defence marshalled by Abdullah Zubramawi.

Shortly before halftime repeated penetrating runs into the box brought the Saudis reward when imposing Olympique Marseille defender Pierre Issa was adjudged by the Chilean referee to have brought down Al-Thyniyan.

The diminutive Al-Jaber, chief tormentor of the South African defence, stepped up to stroke home the spot kick past Hans Vonk for the Saudis first goal of the tournament after letting in four against France and one against Denmark.

Troussier, needing a big win as well as a Danish defeat to stay in the tournament, sent on Sikhosana for McCarthy at halftime and replaced defender Willem Jackson with the more attacking Delron Buckley.

That nearly paid dividends when Buckley surged down the park from the halfway line, brushing aside a series of challenges before finding himself blocked in the box.

The South Africans, as before, had the best of the pressure in the second half but the winner would not come. Zubramawi got up well to head clear just in front of Bartlett in the 68th minute but Al-Deayea was rarely tested.

The Saudis continued to be dangerous on the break and when substitute striker Ibrahim Al-Shahrani was felled in the box — again by Issa — the 34-year-old Al-Thyniyan, winning his 88th cap, stepped up to convert the penalty.

After a frenetic last few minutes that saw several good South African chances, the Saudis, playing only for honour after losing their first two games, were denied a win by Bartlett's last minute equaliser.

"The result is very honourable," Saudi midfielder Nawaf Al-Temyat said. "We feel we had a very good match. It will be better next time."

The Saudis, who caused a surprise by reaching the second round in their first World Cup in 1994, sacked Brazilian coach Carlos Alberto Parreira after their 4-0 drubbing by France. His replacement, Mohammed Al-Kharashi will take comfort from a skilful if, at times, overly hurried display.

FRANCE 98
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MEXICO SHOWS TRUE GRIT

Just before the curtain fell 'The Man' brought the crowd to its feet. Five minutes into second-half injury time, in the last of a frantic series of assaults on the Dutch goal, Luis Hernandez shook off defender Jaap Stam and poked the ball under goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar, giving Mexico a 2-2 tie with the Netherlands.

It was Hernandez's third goal of the World Cup, and the draw qualified both teams for the second round. It also capped another great comeback for the Mexicans, who rallied from 2-0 down to tie Belgium 2-2 in their previous game.

"I am happy. It was an unbelievable game," said Hernandez, who was a doubtful starter because of an ankle injury. "It was a fantastic game for us, a triumph for Mexico and the Mexican people."

The result placed the Dutch in first place in Group E, ahead of Mexico on goal difference. Belgium, which needed a victory to stay alive, finished third after a 1-1 draw with South Korea.

Group E: St Etienne

HOLLAND	2
MEXICO	2

The Mexican Matador Luis Hernandez in action against Holland.

"We didn't do what we wanted in the first half," Mexico coach Manuel Lapuente said. "I told my players not to lose faith. With faith you move mountains. They have a big heart and they displayed that all over the field."

Phillip Cocu and Ronald de Boer had the goals for the Dutch, who relaxed late after dominating most of the game.

"This was a game in which we cannot be satisfied," Dutch coach Guus Hiddink said. "For one or another reason, we settled too much and we did not defend like we like to defend."

Ricardo Pelaez scored for Mexico in the 75th minute. Cuauhtemoc Blanco also netted a shot in the 89th, but was whistled for offsides. Ramon Ramirez was given a red card for protesting the call and will miss Mexico's second-round match Monday.

The cool, wet conditions were ideally suited to the fast, fluent, attacking tactics of the Dutch, and they got the early goal in the fifth minute.

Cocu ran to a neat flicked pass by Dennis Bergkamp and fired a low, hard shot past the dive of goalkeeper Jorge Campos.

It was Cocu's second goal in two matches since being promoted from a defensive midfielder's role to the forward line in a surprise switch forced on Hiddink by the two-game suspension of Patrick Kluivert.

De Boer followed with one of the best individual efforts of the tournament. He shook off three challenges before sending the ball between the legs of defender Joel Sanchez and off the left post, catching Campos moving in the wrong direction.

Mexico, ragged and ineffective for much of the game, finally got on the board when Pelaez rose above the Dutch defence to head home German Villa's corner kick. The ball bounced untouched through a group of Dutch players and one Mexican and into the net.

"We did not keep up the pace," Bergkamp said. "It felt like we were in a downward spiral in the second half."

Until the final minutes, the most dramatic Mexican performance came from a fan who climbed onto the beams on the underside of the roof covering the stands.

The Dutch dither as Mexico score their first goal.

NOW 2002 FOR KOREA

Belgium's vaunted defence lost a lead for the second game in a row and its attack failed to fire, costing the Red Devils a spot in the second round.

With 19 minutes separating it from victory and a shot at the round of 16 for the fifth straight tournament, Belgium gave up a goal by South Korea's Yoo Sang-chul and finished with a 1-1 draw last Thursday.

Group E: Paris

BELGIUM	1
SOUTH KOREA	1

Luc Nilis' volley had given the Belgians the lead in the seventh minute after defender Gordan Vidovic's header was cleared off the goalline.

But the hot start cooled rapidly. Belgium never was able to regain the attacking momentum.

"We collapsed after the first goal," coach Georges Leekens said. "I thought we were going for three or four goals."

When Yoo scored off a curling free kick from Ha Seok-ju in the 71st minute, Belgium desperately pressed forward looking for a winner that never came close. When Mexico rallied to tie the Netherlands 2-2, the Belgians were out after three straight draws. They would have needed a three-goal victory to advance.

"You have to be able to win at least one game to advance and we could not," Belgian captain Franky Van der Elst said.

Belgium had already given away a two-goal lead against Mexico.

"This World Cup we didn't bring enough quality," Leekens said.

The match turned in the 51st minute, when Nilis faked his way past a defender into the penalty box. But his right-foot shot crashed against the underside of the bar.

They even came close to their first World Cup win in five appearances. After Yoo's tying goal, Choi Yong-soo missed three chances in the final 20 minutes.

"We wanted to give our fans a boost after two demoralizing losses," said Kim Pyung-seok, who took over as coach when Cha Bum-kun was fired after the two losses.

The South Koreans were anxious to advance, especially since they and Japan will play host to the next World Cup in 2002.

"Now we have to prepare better," said Kim.

Song-Yong and Kerchoven: AFL?

FRANCE 98
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TEUTONIC TITLE TILT ON TRACK

Two precision goals highlighted a workmanlike performance as Germany advanced to the second round of the World Cup with Thursday night's 2-0 victory over Iran. last week. Despite not really impressing, they are still unbeaten.

Oliver Bierhoff and Juergen Klinsmann scored early in the second half as Germany won their group.

They won the group on goal difference ahead of Yugoslavia, which defeated the United States 1-0 in the night's other match. Iran, which scored its first-ever World Cup victory over the United States on Sunday, was eliminated.

Thomas Haessler and Bierhoff, the combination that worked so well when Germany won the European Championship two years ago, connected again to open the scoring in the 50th minute.

Group F: Montpellier

GERMANY	2
IRAN	0

Haessler made a perfect right-wing cross to Bierhoff, who left defenders Mohammad Khakpour and Mehdi Pashazadeh bumping into each other as his header bounced high into the net from 8 yards.

The second goal, in the 58th minute, was also a well-crafted piece of soccer. Jorg Heinrich chased down a long pass and one-touched the ball right to Bierhoff, who one-timed his shot off the left post. Klinsmann was there for the easy rebound, putting it in with an acrobatic, diving header.

The game pitted Germany's methodical precision against Iran's swift counterattacks. Iran came out with a defensive strategy, choking the German forward plans and countering whenever possible.

Iranian goalkeeper Ahmad Abedzadeh didn't have a difficult save in the first half, while counterpart Andreas Koepke had to dive to his right to stop Karim Bagheri's 35-yard drive.

Iran stepped up the attack after falling behind, but Germany had the better scoring chances.

Bierhoff was just wide in the 60th and also missed the target with a header in the 86th.

Klinsmann's goal was his eighth in World Cup first-round play. He scored four times in Germany's three opening-round games in the United States four years ago, twice in the 1990 group matches in Italy, and also had one in the Germans' France 98 opening win against the Americans.

Before the game, German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel met with French police. Kinkel also expressed his government's sympathy for French police officer Daniel Nivel, who was beaten into a coma by German hooligans after the Germany-Yugoslavia game in Lens.

Matthaeus outpaces Baghieri of Iran.

The three Klinsmann.

PYRRHIC VICTORY FOR 'BRAZIL OF BALKANS'

Yugoslavia secured their place in the second round of the World Cup and a meeting with the powerful Netherlands after a hard-won and possibly costly 1-0 victory over a rugged United States side on Thursday.

Playing their final Group F game in need of a haul of goals to top the section and, hopefully, avoid facing the Dutch in Toulouse, the usually-elegant Yugoslavs were reduced to scuffling for possession and a few half-chances.

Their passing was broken up and so were their team as Predrag Mijatovic, with a knee injury, limped off after 31 minutes to be followed by a frustrated Dragan Stojkovic 20 minutes into the second half. Even the introduction of Dejan Savicevic was to no avail.

It was a night for artisans, not artists, and Mijatovic may be doubtful for Yugoslavia's date with the Dutch.

Group F: Nantes

YUGOSLAVIA	1
USA	0

"An injury like that upsets the strategy for any team," said Yugoslavia coach Slobodan Santrac. "We took him off as an early precaution and hope he will be fit for our next match."

A solitary early goal, from the head of defender Slobodan Komljenovic after four minutes, was all that divided the sides in the end although the Yugoslav football, when it was allowed to flow, was obviously of a higher class.

Unfortunately, for both Santrac's team and for the spectators, the Americans had no intention of supplying a spectacular finale before their departure.

Dour and determined, they were the first team completing three matches to go home pointless, but, Santrac described them as "a team that will improve in the future."

Shaken up by four team changes including the dropping of players as established as goalkeeper Kasey Keller, midfielder Tab Ramos and striker Roy Wegerle, Steve Sampson's team ran and competed hard, but lacked guile.

They also ensured that all the creativity in Yugoslavia's richly-skilled side could not materialise with some robust defensive play which left the 'Brazil of the Balkans' bruised and frustrated.

The Americans, however, almost scored first in only 20 seconds when a drifting cross-shot by wing-back Frankie Hejduk hit the inside of Ivica Kralj's right post and bounced clear. Having had their national anthem whistled down by the Yugoslav fans, the Americans started aggressively.

Stung by this early shock, Yugoslavia responded immediately when Thomas Dooley conceded a free-kick which Sinisa Mihajlovic hit with such characteristic ferocity that Brad Friedel could only parry it into the path of Komljenovic.

His stooping header brought his first goal for his country, but Yugoslavia were not able to add to it. Their best efforts saw Friedel save from Dejan Stankovic and Savo Milosevic in the first half and from substitute Perica Ognjenovic in the closing five minutes.

In between, the America attack of Joe-Max Moore and Brian McBride — who had his head bandaged after a clash with Slavisa Jokanovic's elbow — fired high and wide, with McBride also forcing two saves from Kralj, once with a remarkable 20-metre header.

"We started well, but conceded an early goal," said Sampson. "The players responded well and our level of play was good. But our real failing in this World Cup has been our inability to put the ball in the net — this has to be overcome."

Friedel gets down.

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ENGLAND MAGIC IS BACK

At last, England looked like a side capable of doing some damage to the big boys. Darren Anderton and David Beckham scored spectacular goals on Friday to carry a resurgent England into the World Cup's second round with a 2-0 victory over Colombia.

The two midfielders had arrived in France as rivals for the same position on the right, but coach Glenn Hoddle accommodated them both and was rewarded with a performance he rated eight out of 10 and a date with Argentina in St. Etienne today (Tuesday).

"Overall it was a terrific performance. Tactically we got it right .. the amount of chances we created, we could have scored four."

But for Colombia, out of the competition after two defeats, it was a night of disappointment which left goalkeeper Farid Mondragon in tears and embattled coach Hernan Gomez confirming it was his last match in charge.

Gomez's squad, built around the ageing remnants of earlier campaigns, became the only Latin American team not to survive the first round after a campaign destroyed by internal dissent.

"You really have to say England were the better team tonight," said Gomez. "We did not have any good, penetrative attacks. England closed down all the space, defended well and did not let us play. We tried to change our tactics in the second half, but to no avail. England were too strong."

Romania ended as group G winners after a 1-1 draw with Tunisia and will play Croatia in Bordeaux today (Tuesday).

Darren Anderton, who had suffered two years of injury after being a major part of the team that reached the Euro '96 semi-finals, rifled his sixth goal in 21 appearances after 20 minutes.

Beckham, taking over the central midfield role filled for much of the past decade by Paul Gascoigne, contributed his first for England 10 minutes later with an imperious free kick.

Anderton volleys home.

Group G: Lens

ENGLAND	2
COLOMBIA	0

The goals erased all memories of England's 2-1 defeat by Romania in Toulouse only four days ago, a setback that triggered huge pressure back home for Hoddle to include Beckham and 18-year-old striker Michael Owen from the start.

Hoddle's decision to bring in Owen, making him England's youngest World Cup player, in place of Teddy Sheringham, 32, and Beckham instead of the combative, but less creative, David Batty in central midfield was a resounding success.

Their youth, enthusiasm and, in Owen's case, pace, added energy and variety to the England attack and left Colombia, except for a brief spell midway through the second half, fully stretched and chasing shadows.

Colombia made three halftime substitutions to try and change the shape of the game, but to no avail.

"It was a very conclusive victory," said Hoddle.

Backed by a 25,000-strong army of noisy but well-behaved supporters inside the Stade Felix Bollaert, England meant business from the first whistle.

Midfielder Paul Scholes had a shot parried, Shearer a header saved, and wing-back Graeme Le Saux cushioned a volley just wide before Anderton broke the deadlock.

Later, Scholes twice more went close, Shearer did everything but score at least three times and Owen, whose dribbling left Jorge Bermudez dazed and cautioned, twice ran through but was thwarted by the goalkeeper's legs.

With heir to the throne Prince Charles and his younger son Prince Harry in the stands, Hoddle and his players had every right to claim this was a performance stamped 'By Royal Appointment.'

Yes ... a happy Hoddle.

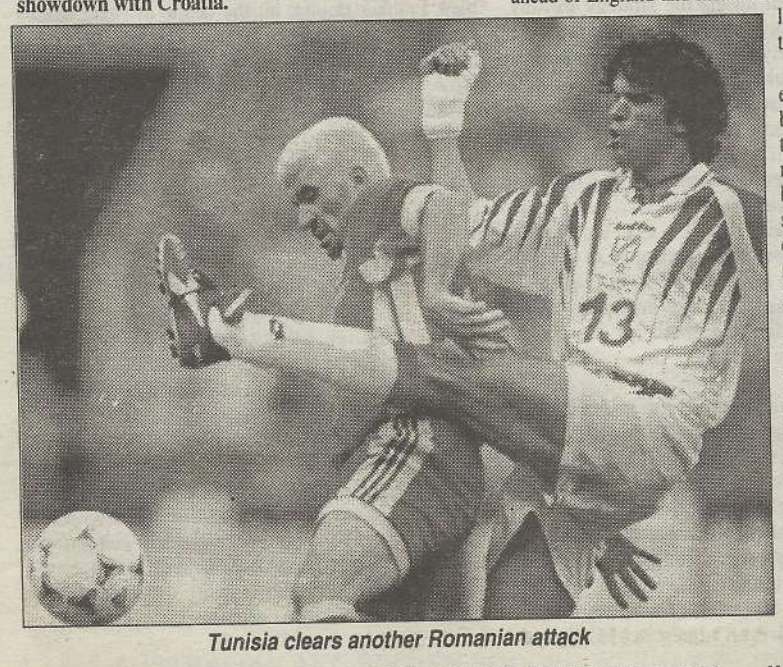
BLONDS HAVE MORE FUN?

Group G: Paris

ROMANIA	1
TUNISIA	1

If it is true then Romania were the exception with an uninspired display in their final group match against a lively Tunisia to set up a second round showdown with Croatia.

Striker Viorel Moldovan volleyed an equaliser in the 72nd minute, just five minutes after coming off the bench. The point gave Romania first place in group G ahead of England and meant the Romanians avoid highly rated Argentina in the second round.



Tunisia clears another Romanian attack

The Romanian players had dyed their hair bright yellow, one of the colours of the national flag, to celebrate their place in the second round already earned with two victories in their first two games.

Coach Anghel Iordanescu had apparently marked the achievement by shaving his head but he kept a baseball cap on all evening.

Romania made five changes to the team which started their impressive 2-1 win over England, missing suspended defender Iulian Filipescu and resting a number of other key players including strikers Adrian Ilie and Moldovan.

But any hopes of a summer stroll were swiftly ended as Tunisia, already eliminated after defeats at the hands of England and Colombia, took an early lead and dominated in the first half.

"We were very poor in the first half and our whole game was disorganised. In the second half we played much more like our normal game," a relieved Iordanescu said. "It's clear that the lack of organisation was my fault as I'd changed five players," he added.

Iordanescu said he had wanted to rest some of his squad and prevent others from picking up yellow cards which could have cost them suspensions.

As it is, Romania will not have any players suspended for today (Tuesday's) game in Bordeaux.

"Playing against Croatia suits us much better because their game is much more like ours," he said.

Backed by noisy support in a packed Stade de France, Tunisia scored their first goal of the tournament after 10 minutes.

Romanian defender Christian Dulca wrestled striker Adel Sellimi to the ground and Skander Souayah converted the resulting penalty.

Tunisia this week sacked coach Henryk Casperczak and placed Ali Selmi in temporary charge. He was delighted with their first half performance as their speedy counter attacks constantly carved open the Romanian defence.

Selmi said: "The first half was the best half we have played in the competition."

Commentators' nightmare ... eleven blond Romanians.

FRANCE 98
MATCH REPORTS

Compiled by ABSW

BATISTUTA'S BOYS GO MARCHING ON

Argentina kept a perfect World Cup record on Friday, beating Croatia 1-0 to win Group H. Its miserly backline remained the only one not to concede a single goal in the first round.

On top of that, a defender made the difference up front too.

In the 36th minute, a deep pass from Daniel Ortega was deflected into the path of defender Hector Pineda on the left, and with the Croatian defence all over the place, Pineda took his time to put the ball past Drazen Ladic.

The best chance in the lacklustre Croatian performance came in the 63rd minute when substitute Goran Vlaovic unleashed a 27 metre drive that crashed onto the post, with Carlos Roa well beaten.

"They deserved their victory. They confirmed all their great aspirations in this game," Croatia coach Miroslav Blazevic said.

For most of the match it was Argentina that provided the action.

On the stroke of half time Marcelo Gallardo almost added a second, when he hit a freekick into the wall and was allowed to line up the rebound from 12 metres, forcing a great save from Ladic.

In the 71st minute, defender Roberto Ayala, who had a great game, slalomed through the Croatian backline and his curling right-foot shot just went the wrong side of the post.

Gabriel Batistuta, the co-top scorer in the competition with four goals had a mediocre game, easily held in control by the Croatian defence.

At the other end, Croatia's Davor Suker was limited to a long-range header, but little else. The Argentines were quicker of the ball and it showed after the goal, with Croatia being forced to commit several fouls to keep the South Americans at bay.

In the 21st minute, Croatian defender Slaven Bilic was given a yellow card for pulling down Batistuta close to the penalty area.

Group H: Bordeaux

ARGENTINA 1

CROATIA 0

Two minutes later, Ortega committed a similar foul in the midfield area on his marker Dario Simic and Moroccan referee Said Belqula showed him yellow.

Argentina's Ayala then got a yellow card for a late tackle on Aljosa Asanovic in the 35th minute.

And in the 44th minute, Zvonimir Soldo got one for a body check on Ortega and it will suspend him for the second-round game. It almost led to the second goal, when Gallardo took the freekick.

Croatia was boosted by the return of Boban, who sat out the Japan game with a pulled leg muscle. Veteran defender Igor Stimac, suffering from blistered feet, was the only regular starter missing but came on as a substitute.

The question now is: Can Owen, Shearer and Beckham penetrate the hitherto unpenetrable?

Zanetti and Asanovic

Marcel Gallardo's curling free kick.

JAMAICAN JOY ... FIRST EVER WIN

The Jamaican Rum must have been flowing freely in the bars of downtown Kingston. Jamaica grabbed their first World Cup victory and Japan scored their first goal on Friday in a group H match won 2-1 by the Reggae Boyz thanks to two goals by Theodore "Tapper" Whitmore.

Yamaguichi on the slide.

There may have only been pride at stake in the Gerland stadium but judging from the performance of the players in an entertaining game, that was motivation enough.

Neither side had a chance of reaching the second round on their Cup debut after losing both previous games.

Goals from Whitmore, Montego Bay born and bred, either side of halftime had put Jamaica in command and the Jamaican players celebrated their victory with a jubilant lap of honour while their supporters danced in the stands.

After emphatic defeats by Croatia and Argentina, Jamaica restored some pride with Friday's victory, said coach Rene Simoes.

"I'm very proud of the team and Jamaica must be," said Simoes who has said that he will now leave his post. We have had three wonderful games and learnt a lot."

Japan leave with no points but they finally broke their goal drought through Masashi Nakayama in the 75th minute.

His volley off a header by Brazilian-born substitute Wagner Lopes was greeted with joy from the largely Japanese crowd who had seen their talented side squander numerous chances.

Coach Takeshi Okada resigned after the match. "I didn't get my players to win a game ... I couldn't even make them draw when it was possible to draw. It is my responsibility for these results, Okada said."

From the opening whistle Japan, prompted by flame-haired midfield playmaker Hidetoshi Nakata, put together fluent, well-worked attacks.

Group H: Lyon

JAMAICA 2

JAPAN 1

Japan had width with left-wing back Naoki Soma particularly impressive and Jamaica were forced to defend for long periods.

Japan's passing and movement off the ball was both attractive and effective in opening up a Jamaican defence that conceded eight goals in their previous two matches.

In the 10th minute Hidetoshi Nakata floated a cross to Shoji Jo but his powerful volley flew wide of the post.

Jo was involved in again putting in Hiroshi Nanami in the 29th minute, but Nanami rushed his shot and blasted over.

In contrast Jamaica took the lead having created little in the way of openings.

In the 39th minute midfielder Whitmore broke into the box and fired a low shot past Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi. It was only the third goal conceded by Japan.

Japan again started well after the break with Motohiro Yamaguchi and Masashi Nakayama both going close.

In the 54th minute Whitmore danced in from the right flank and tucked a left foot drive into the bottom corner before reeling away to celebrate.

Whitmore celebrates his second.

FRANCE 98
MATCH REPORTS
Compiled by ABSW

BRAZIL CHILL OUT IN STYLE

Two goals from Ronaldo and another two from Cesar Sampaio sent defending champions Brazil steaming into the World Cup quarter-finals with a 4-1 defeat of a brave but outclassed Chile on Saturday.

Neither will have shared quite as much in the fans' enjoyment of the feast served up at the Parc des Princes.

The Brazilians led 3-0 by halftime, with midfielder Cesar Sampaio scoring twice and Ronaldo crashing in a penalty as they briskly set about wiping out the memory of the 2-1 defeat by Norway in the first round.

Only the woodwork in the 66th and 84th minutes prevented Ronaldo, who slotted in his second goal in the 70th, from becoming the first Brazilian to score a hat-trick in the World Cup finals since Pele against France in a 1958 semi-final.

Denilson fed the ball through to Ronaldo in loads of space in the second half and the striker took his time to set up a firm, angled right-footed shot past the diving body of Nelson Tapia.

"In the second half we played the kind of football I like and we will play it from now until the end," Brazil coach Mario Zagallo said.

The two goals lifted Ronaldo, who had been through a drought before the finals, up among the leading scorers with a tally of three from his four games.

"Ronaldo improved in the second half," Zagallo said. "He had more to give. He will live up to expectations in these championships."

Chile's 'Sa-Za' partnership of Marcelo Salas and Ivan Zamorano provided their 68th minute goal and

Ronaldo slips past Tapia.

Round of 16: Paris

BRAZIL	4
CHILE	1

Chile could have scraped a second deep into injury time when Zamorano forced a great save out of goalkeeper Taffarel.

The goal saw Zamorano try a header and Salas follow up with a header of his own. That took Salas' total to four for the tournament. "Considering that Chile qualified for the finals for the first time in 16 years, It's a very positive performance," coach Nelson Acosta said.

"Unfortunately, we had to meet a team that is certainly going all the way to final."

Cesar Sampaio headed in his first goal off a Dunga free kick in the 11th minute and doubled his tally off another set piece 16 minutes later.

Roberto Carlos teed up a long-range free kick which ricocheted off the wall, Bebeto hit the ball back across the goal and Cesar Sampaio rifled in the diagonal shot.

He too could have scored a hat-trick but he fluffed a golden chance in the 54th when Roberto Carlos found him at the post and he could not control the ball in time.

Goalkeeper Tapia had a miserable first half, picking up a booking and conceding a 45th minute penalty when Ronaldo went sprawling over him as he rushed out to cover.

French referee Marc Batta pointed to the spot. Tapia got a touch of Ronaldo's shot with his left hand but it was not enough to prevent the striker's second goal of the finals.

It was possibly a harsh decision, one of several questionable ones that saw Rivaldo escape completely in the second minute for a fierce tackle on Fernando Cornejo.

Chile, who reached the second round with three draws and have not won in the tournament since 1962 when they reached the semi-finals but lost 4-2 to Brazil, started promisingly but quickly ran up against a Brazilian juggernaut.

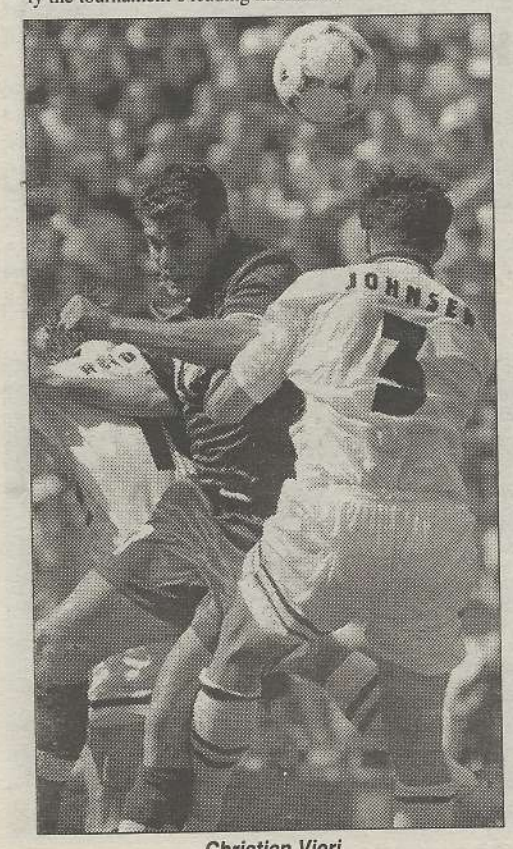
Ronaldo's Inter Milan team mate Ivan Zamorano, who embraced the Brazilian as they left the field, tried a header in the third minute and Miguel Ramirez cracked a long-range blast high in the 23rd minute but Brazil held firm at the back.

Sampaio scores.

THE BOY FROM OZ HITS A HIGH NOTE FOR THE BLUES

Christian Vieri sent Italy into the World Cup quarter-finals on Saturday when his fifth goal of the tournament proved enough to beat a disappointing Norway 1-0 in the Velodrome.

The Atletico Madrid striker latched on to a Luigi Di Biagio through ball after 18 minutes, held off Dan Eggen and sent a powerful low shot past Frode Grodas. He has scored in all four of Italy's games and is currently the tournament's leading marksman.



Christian Vieri

It was Norway's first defeat in 20 games and coach Egil Olsen said he was bitter at losing "a bad match to a bad Italian side."

He told reporters: "I'm disappointed we didn't play up to our limit. I'm not very impressed by Italy either. It was more because we didn't play well that we lost."

Italy coach Cesare Maldini saw it differently. "We played very, very well. When you get to the last 16 it's always hard work."

He added: "It was a highly tactical match. Norway played well but we were able to counter them successfully. I think our goal was well deserved."

Match-winner Vieri said: "I'm very pleased to be top-scorer in the competition but the important thing is Italy are in the last eight."

Norway, with just Tore Andre Flo up front, rarely troubled the Italian defence in a match played in strength-sapping heat, while the 1994 runners-up can point to half-a-dozen good chances.

Only in the early stages, when the Italians seemed a little disorganised, did they look like conceding a goal. Gianluca Pagliuca parried a shot by Havard Flo and Henning Berg went close with a header from a corner.

Norway's plans were hampered as Oyvind Leonhardsen limped off after 13 minutes and his replacement, Roar Strand, was stretchered off in the 40th minute with a cut head after being caught by Francesco Moriero.

But Italy settled after the goal, with Di Biagio always looking to release his strikers with passes behind the Norwegian defence.

Vieri was a willing runner but the best chances fell to Alessandro Del Piero.

Frode Grodas foiled him with a good save and the Juventus man then produced a poor attempt to chip the keeper when through on the stroke of halftime.

Grodas made another excellent save to keep out a Dino Baggio header after the midfielder was left unmarked at a corner.

At the other end Tore Andre Flo was always a handful but in general was well-shackled by experienced Italian defenders Paolo Maldini and Alessandro Costacurta.

Round of 16: Marseille

ITALY	1
NORWAY	0

Italy had the better chances of the second half and Del Piero added to his chapter of missed opportunities when he shot just wide after an hour when clean through.

Norway's best chance of the match came in the 72nd minute when Tore Andre Flo connected with a Erik Mykland cross but Pagliuca got down sharply to save his header on the line.

Olsen sent on Manchester United striker Ole Gunnar Solskjaer for Havard Flo a minute later but the change that worked so well against Brazil failed to come off this time.

Italy should have wrapped it up in the last minute when Vieri found substitute Enrico Chiesa with a superb pass but watched the Parma player hit it high wide and handsome.

Vieri mobbed by exuberant team-mates.

FRANCE 98
MATCH REPORTS
Compiled by ABSW

BRING ON AZZURRI, SAY COCKY FRENCH

Laurent Blanc kept France's flame alive on Sunday with the first golden goal at a World Cup finals as the hosts ousted Paraguay 1-0. A tight and fairly cautious second-round encounter looked headed towards a penalty shoot-out, but with six minutes of the second period of extra time remaining, Blanc struck gold.

Unmarked just seven metres out, the big defender moved purposefully on to David Trezeguet's downward header to show a killer instinct lacking in some of his team mates.

He lashed the ball past the inspirational Paraguayan captain Jose Luis Chilavert to spark nationwide celebrations.

It was tough on Paraguay, who had defended stoutly throughout a game memorable largely for its dramatic finale.

The golden goal has been adopted by FIFA to reduce the number of penalty shoot-outs. The first scorer of a World Cup golden goal was Masayuki Okada who struck two minutes from the end of extra time to give Japan a 3-2 win in an Asian play-off with Iran last November.

It was also used at the European championships in 1996 when Germany beat the Czech Republic 2-1,

France's prize for Sunday's victory is a quarter-final against Italy in Paris this Friday.

"We would have preferred to win earlier," acknowledged a grateful French coach Aime Jacquet. "We dominated today and had plenty of opportunities, but we lacked lucidity and confidence."

Round of 16: Lens

FRANCE	1
PARAGUAY	0

Although the French had the better chances in extra time, notably a Youri Djorkaeff free-kick which deflected off the South Americans' wall, the elusive goal threatened never to arrive.

It was certainly a far cry from the relative smooth passage France enjoyed to the knock-out stages as the 100-1 outsiders employed unashamedly limited tactics to protect Chilavert.

The nearest France came in normal time was six minutes before halftime when Thierry Henry hit the far post with a fierce right-foot shot, but for a long time it was a day when France's old goalscoring problems resurfaced with a vengeance.

Chilavert, booked for time-wasting as early as the 20th minute, had to look lively to finger-tip away a left-shot from Bernard Diomede but Djorkaeff and Diomede again were both unable to hit the target from good positions in the first half.

Other than a couple of long-range attempted lobs, Paraguay created little before halftime to worry French goalkeeper Fabien Barthez on his 27th birthday but threatened a little more in the second when Carlos Gamarra headed wide and Francisco Arce sliced an attempted shot.

Most of the action in the final quarter of normal time was at the other end, however, Trezeguet rolling the ball just wide in the 79th minute with Chilavert stranded and Djorkjaeff twice going close to settling the issue.

Even Blanc's winner could not mask the fact that France's defence is still a good deal more effective than their attack. This was one of those days, though, when the result was France's solitary concern.

Italy loom but Djorkaeff was in confident mood: "I couldn't care less about the Italians," he said. "I'm not even thinking about them. I'm thinking about the French team.

"We don't look at anyone else any more. We've got our own Del Pieros, Vieris and Pagliucas in our team, maybe even better."

We shall see ...

Point Blanc ... French defender Laurent Blanc shoots for goal.

Petit and Acuna fly high.

DASHING DANES MAKE THEIR CUP RUN

Denmark took Nigeria apart on Sunday to win their World Cup second round match 4-1 and book a quarter-final against champions Brazil on Friday. The performance brought back memories of their 1986 side, known as the 'Dashing Danes'.

The Danes, like Nigeria playing in their second finals, were unrecognisable from the side that limped through the first round and they outplayed the strongly fancied Nigerians.

The game was over as a contest within the first 12 minutes as Denmark took a 2-0 lead over the only African country left in the World Cup.

Round of 16: Paris

DENMARK	4
NIGERIA	1

Peter Moller, making his World Cup debut, scored the opening goal in the third minute, running powerfully on to a sideways flick by Michael Laudrup.

The shot gave goalkeeper Peter Rufai little chance but the second goal which started with a free kick in the 11th minute exposed Nigeria's defensive weaknesses.

Michael Laudrup touched the ball, Moller cracked a shot through Jay-Jay Okocha's legs and Rufai could only parry it to Brian Laudrup who buried it.

Ebbe Sand scored a third just seconds after he came on as substitute. With his first touch of the match, the striker controlled a chip from Michael Laudrup and shot past Rufai.

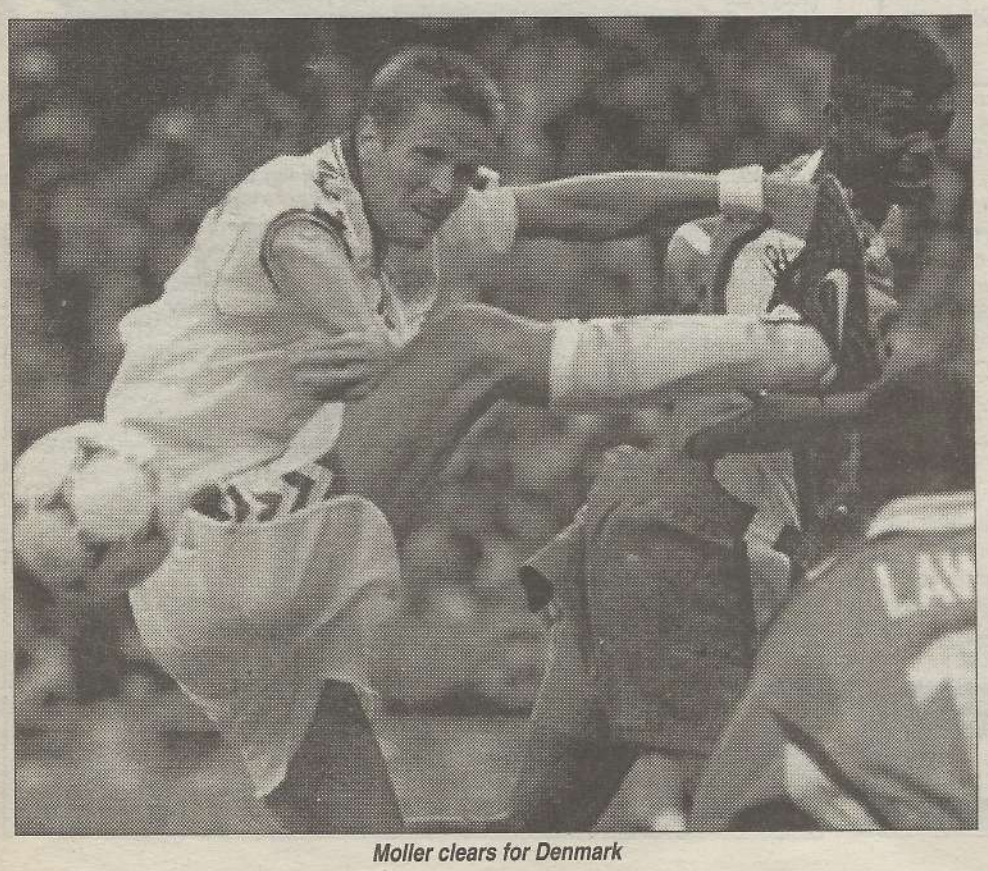
Denmark's passing and technical ability were superb against a Nigerian side that lacked cohesion and were profligate once they neared the Danish penalty area.

Rufai was to blame for the fourth goal when he failed to hold a shot the ball was moved back across the goal for Thomas Helveg to score in the 76th minute.

Substitute Tijani Babangida scored a consolation goal for Nigeria two minutes later.

Denmark were knocked out in the second round at their first finals in 1986. Nigeria were knocked out in the second round in 1994, their only previous appearance.

As for Nigeria, what started out so brightly (Sunday Oliseh's goal against Spain the highlight) has ended in a flicker, snuffed out by an opponent clearly more focussed on the job at hand.



Moller clears for Denmark

Veteran Nigeria keeper Peter Rufai

WORLD CUP
ANALYSIS & COMMENT

Phil Murphy
ABSW Wollongong correspondent

Brian Lara would have been bitterly disappointed. His Jamaican countrymen just didn't measure up in that Group H against Argentina. The master batsman would have been proud to see the Jamaican flag flying in France.

It was probably at half-mast back home last week. Argentina were always in control and cruised to a 5-0 win.

It was one of those results which casts one's mind back to the MCG on November 29. The Socceroos are a better side than Jamaica.

How can a tiny nation like Jamaica be there and the Socceroos aren't? The same probably applies to those Scots.

You could argue that Australia are better than those Asian qualifiers South Korea, Japan and dare I say it, Iran?

The South Koreans looked poor, Japan played some good stuff in their own half but in their first two games could have kept going until the rising sun without scoring a goal.

The simply lacked a physical presence to do any damage against Argentina and Croatia.

Against Brian Lara's boys on Friday night, they could not even win, but at least they finally scored.

So Iran beat the Yanks — big deal.

Our team would probably have beaten the likes of South Africa and Mexico.

So, just when you thought you had recovered from the disaster of November 29 watching the finals on the box brings it all back. If only our boys had scored a couple of goals when they had Iran shellshocked in the first 20 minutes.

If only El Tel had given the lads a half-decent preparation before they went to Iran for the first leg.

If only Harry Kewell had been given the chance to enhance his career further.

If only, if only.

Then again, we would gave gone to France and been placed in Group F — Germany and Yugoslavia would have been tough.

Maybe we wouldn't have qualified for the second round, after all. Makes you feel a bit better doesn't it?

Roll on 2002.

Mark Fowler
ABSW contributing writer

England will go into their second round match against rivals Argentina as firm underdogs, given Argentina's impressive efforts in easily winning their group. By winning all three games without conceding a goal, Argentina will once again look to the competition's joint leading scorer, Gabriel Batistuta, to add to his tally of four goals.

England were happy to grab second spot in their group, especially after their shock 2-1 loss to group winners Romania.

Glenn Hoddle's men looked better against Colombia in winning 2-0, but in truth Colombia looked poor and rarely troubled the England goal.

Although the Colombians controlled the ball better than England, they looked like a team with nothing to play for, not one who needed to win to qualify for the knockout stages.

The England fans and newspapers got the team they wanted, Michael Owen and David Beckham both starting, and both contributed to the team's win.

Owen added pace to the attack, although he didn't have quite the same impact as he did against Romania. It must be remembered that he's only 18, and shouldn't yet be asked to be England's saviour. This is the start of a glittering career we are witnessing, and the privilege of watching this young man is enhanced by the thought we could see him in another four World Cups!

David Beckham gave the ball away too often, but his wonderful free kick made up for anything else. In the tight knockout stages the difference between victory and defeat may be a free-kick.

England now have a player that will have defences worried from anywhere up to 35 metres out.

England's shooting was commendable, but equally matched by Colombian 'keeper Mondragon. While most of the shots were from distance most hit the target, Mondragon kept his reputation intact.

Tottenham's Sol Campbell went on one memorable rampaging run forward, and only the last line of defence stopped him after several Colombians seemed happy just to avoid him. Of all the England players, Campbell will find his reputation (and transfer value) soaring on arrival back in England.

So bring on Argentina. To win England will have to crack the meanest defence in the competition so far, and also the fairest. Given Argentina's past record, while the former is no surprise, the latter certainly is.

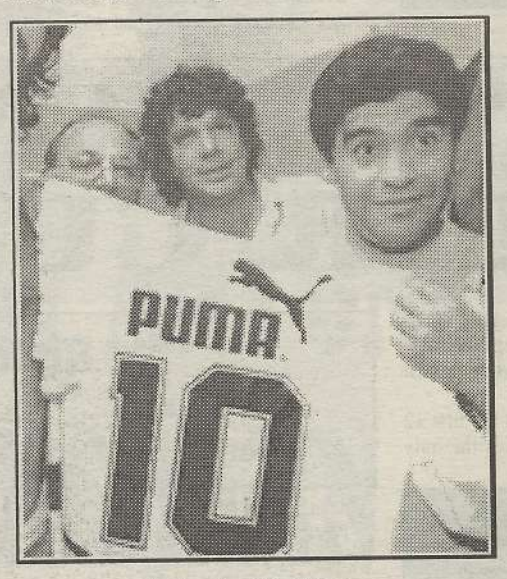
The English press will have a field day mentioning the Falklands conflict and the 1986 'Hand of God' goal. A few English idiots will be seeking to gain their own revenge, but the only importance for England is to concentrate on the game.

Even as favourites Argentina would probably have preferred playing the Romanians, and England must hope the Argentinians have 'peaked' too early.

It will be a great test for the English and by beating the Argentinians they can finally lay that 1986 game to rest, and also knock one of the favourites out of the competition.

Let's watch Messrs Owen, Beckham and Ortega, and even though we will hopefully see them again in four years time, realise we are watching brilliance.

This is what the World Cup's all about ...



England v Argentina:
'Hand of God '... the sequel
'Hoddle's Revenge?'

Dwyght Tuffnell
ABSW Melbourne correspondent

Argentina against England is promising to be a classic. The two sides have not met on the World Cup stage since 1986 in one of the most infamous matches of all time.

Argentina beat England 2-1 with Diego Maradona scoring both — one with the hand, but his second is probably the greatest solo goal ever.

In 1998, the contest will be tighter than some people will have you believe and neither side have really been at their best yet.

Argentina beat Croatia, but they can play much better this and what they showed in victories over Japan and Jamaica.

England were good in some periods against Colombia with both Michael Owen and David Beckham in the starting line-up for the first time in the tournament.

Sol Campbell, England's best player by a mile so far, will most likely get the job marking the dangerous Gabriel Batistuta.

Who partners Batistuta is anyone's guess.

In the Croatia game, midfielder Ariel Ortega played alongside Batistuta to allow Argentina to also play Marcelo Gallardo.

It didn't have a great influence and Daniel Passarella may recall Claudio Lopez to the side.

Hoddle must play Owen against Argentina.

Teddy Sheringham just didn't look interested in England's first two games and isn't as threatening as Owen is.

SBS's coverage of the World Cup has been reasonably good — to a point.

Les Murray, Johnny Warren, Paul Dempsey and the commentators (apart from Gary Bloom, who can't describe something as mundane as winning a throw in without screaming his head off) have all been excellent.

The weak links are clearly Tracey Holmes and Andy Harper.

Holmes is a top journalist but her job in France appears to be just to follow English hooligans around and read those "news" bulletins at the start of the evenings broadcast.

Harper is fine when it comes to analysing the Ericsson Cup but surely there were better candidates for his role, someone who has played at international level at least.

It's hard to really believe what Harper is saying when you consider he hasn't even come close to playing in the standard he is giving "expert" comments on.

His summations during the Colombia-England game were ridiculous, particularly the way he tried to somehow discredit England's first goal by suggesting that Darren Anderton "isn't in the team to score goals."

Neither is Nigeria's Sunday Oliseh, but that didn't stop him scoring one of the goals of the tournament in the victory over Spain.

Perhaps Frank Farina, Eddie Krncevic or David Mitchell — who have all played for the Socceroos and played a number of years in European competition with success — would have been better options than Harper?

Roy Hay
ABSW contributing writer

As the 'real' World Cup begins, Scotland returns home "tae think again". The marvellous Tartan Army could not carry its heroes to success in the group stage as Morocco won the crucial game decisively.

The Scots had their best formation for this match, though the experience of Calderwood in defence was missed by coach Craig Brown.

Certainly Scotland continued to give away bad goals, with Hendry misjudging a long ball forward and Jim Leighton parrying a shot over his head but under the bar.

Whether this can be put down to the rearrangement at the heart of the defence is unclear, but I don't think any blame can be attached to Weir or McNamara who played pretty well.

Burley's sending off put the final nail in the Scottish coffin leaving the Norwegians to qualify for the next round

I confess to mixed emotions about the Norwegians — disgust and loathing. Not as individuals or even as a team, but at the way their talents are misused, even if they managed to beat Brazil twice. As 'Four-Four-Two' reminded us of the old Italian proverb, "If God had meant football to be played in the air, he would have put grass in the sky".

A couple of years ago the Scotland U/23s took a very good Hungarian side apart on a freezing night at Easter Road.

One down from the first leg, the Scots conceded another goal in the first half, which meant they had to score three to win, which they did, not by kick and rush, but by a very mature performance, building from the back and probing for openings.

The players on the park changed formation to use five in attack when necessary, but were quite happy to play the ball around at the back until the shape was restored.

They persisted, even when the fans began to demand that they 'hump' the ball forward.

That team included Dailly, McNamara, Gray, and Donnelly among others. The basis of young ball-playing talent is there and Craig Brown should make the best of the them.

This is the only way forward for Scottish football and that elusive goal of reaching the second stage of a major competition.

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1998 WORLD CUP

Brazil	3.75	Belgium	101.00
Italy	6.50	Bulgaria	126.00
France	7.00	Mexico	141.00
Argentina	8.00	Paraguay	201.00
Holland	9.00	USA	201.00
Germany	9.00	Austria	251.00
England	11.00	Scotland	331.00
Spain	17.00	Morocco	501.00
Nigeria	17.00	Sth Africa	501.00
Yugoslavia	19.00	South Korea	801.00
Croatia	29.00	Tunisia	801.00
Romania	41.00	Saudi Arabia	1251.00
Denmark	41.00	Cameroon	161.00
Norway	51.00	Jamaica	661.00
Chile	67.00	Japan	801.00
Columbia	67.00	Iran	1001.00

WORLD CUP
ANALYSIS & COMMENT

Graham Cooke

ABSW Canberra correspondent

The United States made a fast exit from the World Cup, and back in Washington there were sighs of relief from the White House. Not that the Clinton Administration is antagonistic to soccer - in fact Bill Clinton, like his predecessor George Bush, enjoys watching - it's just that an American team playing the world game with most of the planet as spectators, can be something of a two-edged weapon.

Countries which cannot face up to the US militarily or economically can take it out on them on the soccer field, old scores can be settled and issues aired which have nothing to do with the actual playing of football.

The US had three opponents which might all have provided difficult moments: The Germans are traditional rivals for influence in Europe, Iran was once a bitter enemy and still routinely denounces America as 'The Great Satan' and Yugoslavia is resentful over interference in Kosovo.

In the end soccer diplomacy achieved more than the real thing, topped by the scenes of fraternisation before the game with Iran, with joint photographs, and exchanges of flowers. The Americans also assisted by not actually winning, while providing strong enough performances to give their opponents the satisfaction that their victories had been hard-earned.

In all, the team proved it could be a valuable arm of US diplomacy. As soccer players? Well, that's another story.

Of course, the American departure does not end the potential for political problems in the later rounds. England v Argentina revisiting the Falklands War is a possible flashpoint in the last 16, with the Hand of God incident from 1986 an extra ingredient for the brew.

With every country on Earth playing soccer, and around 60 of them entertaining reasonable prospects of reaching the World Cup finals, there are bound to be strange bedfellows thrown together. That is not the weakness of our game, it is one of its strengths, and something where the advantages far outweigh any drawbacks.

The sight of Mexicans and South Koreans, the vast majority of whom would not have had the vaguest idea of each other's language and culture, able to relate to each other through the match they were playing, does add validity to the old cliches about soccer being the universal language.

And while England, Germany and others have some fans for whom travelling to football matches is the equivalent of the Medieval occupations of rape, plunder and pillage, the vast majority of games so far are more memorable for the sheer joy of supporters, young and old, revelling in the fact they are all together on a summer's day in France 1998, supporting the team they love.

Some may never come to a Word Cup again, but I'm willing to bet that for most it will be a time they will remember and savour for the rest of their lives. Pele, in his delight in helping Brazil regain the World Cup in 1970 said it was a time "when the world was young again". He did not go far enough. For the true fan - and there are billions - every World Cup brings with it fresh hopes and new ambitions.

Every tournament is a time for being young, and for being young again.

John Economos

ABSW Staff Reporter

Brazil the giants of World Soccer have everything to yet again be declared World Champions and thus retain their 'heavyweight title' won for the fourth time in USA '94.

With an explosive arsenal of extremely skilled and powerful mega stars such as Bebeto, Ronaldo, Rivaldo, Denilson, Sampaio, Cafu, Goncalves, Roberto Carlos and Leonardo, Brazil are favourites.

Add to this, the long-serving, and ever maturing goalkeeper, Tafferel, the brilliant Brazilians are seemingly and unquestionably, untouchable.

Or are they?

In their central defence they have pace, height, skill and courage in Sampaio and Gonclaves. Even goalscoring power if it comes to that through towering Sampaio (three to date).

With Cafu and Carlos as flank-defenders, there's heaps of skill and a healthy supply of quality crosses fired in with monotonous regularity.

The strike-power is nothing short of frightening.

Bebeto, Ronaldo, Denilson and the guy with the huge capacity for long-range shooting, (yet to be seen using it), Rivaldo.

Is it possible that one nation, just one, has the ability to block Brazil?

In fact Brazil DOES have an Achilles heel.

He wears shirt number 8. Turns 35 on the last day of October and just happens to be the Brazilian captain.

The dangerous, 'chief engineer' of Brazil's entire 'gear box' is none other than the magnificent DUNGA.

Brazil's power, aggression, direction and wisdom, all emanate from this fabulous, unyielding and tenacious professional, one Carlos Dunga, one of only three Brazilians that is white (Leonardo and Taffarel being the others).

Dunga, based in Japan with the J-League at Jubilo Iwata, is the heart that pulsates that electrifying blood into Brazil's Soccer machine.

Who will ever forget recently as Dunga exploded with violent verbal abuse as he viciously chastised little striker Bebeto during the worldwide telecast of Brazil's third last match against Morocco, for selfish play?

So intense was Dunga's verbal attack on Bebeto, it required no less than three Brazilian players to physically restrain and pull back their white-hot competitive skipper from the tiny striker.

And Brazil won this match 3-0 for heavens sake.

Dunga copped heaps of criticism from the South America media for his hostile attack on Bebeto after the match which compounded into wounding his professional pride. In answer, Dunga remained silent.

So much so that this deathly silence remained throughout Brazil's next match against Norway. And look what happened there.

The unthinkable ... Brazil 1, Norway 2.

For once Brazil was spiritless. The 'driver' was silent.

Sure Brazil had already qualified for Phase 2, but Dunga was sore, real sore.

The power and fire of Dunga's leadership in the middle line was dormant, if not totally absent. Brazil was paralysed and the Norwegians ended as ultimate victors.

Dunga standing at 1.77m and weighing just 77kgs, is the very heart of Brazil's World Cup crusade. **Again.**

He is tough, aggressive whilst driving his forces deeply forward into enemy territory with his ball-winning skills and then nothing short of marvellous long ball precision distribution.

Dunga is the 'steel' that supplies all of Brazil's strength and power on the pitch.

Dunga is the 'rudder' of Brazil's giant Soccer ocean liner.

It was Dunga's immaculate power, severe tenacity and steely leadership from the midfield of the pitch last Sunday morning, that drove his team into stepping up a gear as the World Champions with surgical precision, methodically carved up and finally destroyed their threatening South American neighbours Chile, to the tune of 4-1.

The nation that can stop this incredible, defiant Dunga, could be the very same nation that ultimately could lift the World Cup come July 12th.

Dunga unquestionably IS Brazil.

(This writer had the extreme honour and indelible pleasure, spending two very valuable hours with Dunga when the Brazilian 'commander' toured Sydney with Jubilo Iwata almost three years ago).

Dunga: Brazil's driving force.

Joe Russo

ABSW Serie A columnist

So a Christian Vieri-led Italy is into the quarter finals of the World Cup. Norway fell 0-1 to the Azzurri, in Marseille, in the first knock-out game of the Coup du Monde.

The Norwegians can only blame their coach Egil Olsen, he is so negative that he makes football boring. One striker, Tore-Andre Flo, and five midfielders from start to finish.

Why on earth when they were down by a goal, didn't they attack more? If you were not sure of the scoreline, and had have just tuned into the second half, you could have been forgiven for believing that Norway were leading.

As for Italy, well the key to their win was not Vieri, nor Del Piero and certainly not Dino Baggio. It was their goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca. His competence between the sticks and some outstanding saves, kept Italy in the game.

For former Italian coach Arrigo Sacchi, Pagliuca was finished after the last World Cup. Not so. In fact, he is the first Italian keeper since Dino Zoff, to play in two consecutive World Cups for Italy. Zoff kept goals in 1974, 78, 1982, Galli in 1986, Zenga in 1990 and Pagliuca these last two World Cups.

If Pagliuca's return is noteworthy, then surely Giuseppe Bergomi is Lazarus. The former national captain is back and how!

When he replaced the injured Alessandro Nesta early in the game against Austria, he effectively turned the clock back seven years. That's how long he hadn't played for Italy.

Many thought he was finished, but at 34 years young, he is still proving to be one of the best defenders in the business. There was never any doubt that he would start against Norway.

Vieri with his five goals in four games, is proving to be one of the world's finest strikers. Many are now comparing him to other leading strikers in World Cups for Italy.

Paolo Rossi of 1982 fame comes to mind, but after Italy's first four games then, he had yet to score a goal! He managed six in Italy's last three encounters (Brazil, Poland, West Germany). Vieri is already way ahead, and potentially he also has three games left.

Why Robbie Baggio didn't get a run against Norway is almost incomprehensible. They were struggling to create anything in the second half, and this is where Baggio is ideal.

He proved against Austria, not only by scoring a goal, that when he came on, the team takes on a new look. If Italy is going to win this World Cup, then it cannot afford to leave Baggio on the bench. It is like owning a Rolls-Royce and leaving it in the garage!

Italy's midfield is still a headache for coach Cesare Maldini. He so far has rotated seven players, without really setting on a combination of four to start with.

Di Matteo, Albertini, Pessotto, Moriero, Di Biagio, Di Livio and Dino Baggio have all been given a go. The best two have surely been Moriero and Di Biagio so far.

So as Italy prepare for Friday's quarter-final game, coach Maldini will once again be re-shuffling his starting lineup.

As long as he produces results, it really won't matter who plays.

Stuart Jones' Stats

	0-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90
Goals	12%	10%	16%	19%	17%	26%
	15	13	20	24	21	33
Yellow	8%	19%	15%	17%	19%	22%
Cards	14	34	28	31	34	39
Red	0%	19%	12%	19%	15%	31%
Cards	0	3	23	3	5	

Totals: 48 Games in Round One;
180 Yellow Cards (average 1.8 per team per game)
16 Red Cards (0.33 per game)
126 goals (average 2.6 per game)
269 off sides (average 6 per game)
463 corners (average 10 per game)
1582 fouls (average 1 foul every 2.7 minutes)
260 Substitutes used (average of 2.6 used per game per team)

Worst card day - Day 16 - 17 YCs, 1 RC
Best card day - Day 1 - 4 YCs.
Goal analysis; 126 goals from;

Open play	77 - 61%
Corners	18 - 14%
Free kicks	15 - 12%
Penalties	13 - 10 % (100% conversion rate)
Throw ins	3 - 2%

23% (29 in total) of all goals have hit the defending team before going in. (Not all considered own goals though).

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Goals Goals Goals

Batistuta (Argentina)

Ronaldo (Brazil)

Christian Vieri (Italy)

Salas (Chile)

Sampaio (Brazil)

Henry (France)

Hernandez (Mexico)

Catch all the action inside!